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WAN-IFRA DIGITAL MEDIA AWARDS

The Hindu steals the show

Group picks up 10 honours, named Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025

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NEARBY

BBMP seizes goods of vendors on Church Street

BENGALURU
When civic officials came armed with an empty lorry to seize goods being sold by street vendors on Church Street on Wednesday, the vendors staged an impromptu protest. » PAGE 3

Thug Life release is doubtful in Karnataka

BENGALURU
There seems to be no respite for Kamal Haasan's Thug Life in Karnataka. A day after the Supreme Court directed the State to release the film, distributors from Karnataka are unwilling to buy the gangster drama. » PAGE 2

India will never accept a mediation: PM to Trump

Foreign Secretary Misri says Modi dismissed the U.S. President's claims over Operation Sindoor in clear terms; despite the phone conversation, Trump repeats the claim that he 'stopped the war'

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

> [U.S.] President Trump listened carefully to the points conveyed by the Prime Minister and expressed his support towards India's fight against terrorism
>
> **VIKRAM MISRI**
> Foreign Secretary

> I think Modi is a fantastic man...We are going to make a trade deal with Modi of India. But I stopped the war between Pakistan and India
>
> **DONALD TRUMP**
> U.S. President

India does not and will never accept mediation by the United States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told U.S. President Donald Trump directly over a telephone call, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Wednesday. He added that the Prime Minister dismissed Mr. Trump's claims over Operation Sindoor in clear terms during the 35-minute telephone call.

However, a few hours later, Mr. Trump repeated his claims, even adding that Mr. Modi and Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal General Asim Munir had been "helpful" in "stopping the war".

In a televised statement from the Prime Minister's plane 'India 1', Mr. Misri said the call was requested by Mr. Trump after a meeting between the two leaders was cancelled as the U.S. President left the G-7 Summit in Canada a day early.

"Mr. Modi firmly stated that India does not and will never accept mediation. There is complete political consensus in India on this matter," Mr. Misri said, indicating the criticism from the Opposition parties over Mr. Trump's allegations.

The U.S. President, a few hours later, said: "I stopped a war between Pakistan and India", while adding that he "loved Pakistan" and "[PM] Modi is a fantastic man" he would conclude a trade deal with.

A White House spokesperson said Mr. Trump had decided to invite the General Munir to lunch after the latter suggested the Nobel Peace Prize be given to the U.S. President for his role in "preventing a nuclear war".

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'PM must tell the nation what was told to Trump'

NEW DELHI
The Congress on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi must take the nation into confidence and brief leaders on what he has told U.S. President Donald Trump. » PAGE 11

Khamenei says Iran will not surrender

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that the nation would never surrender, and warned the United States of "irreparable damage" if it intervenes, while Israel said it had destroyed the internal security headquarters in Tehran.

Mr. Khamenei's speech came six days into the conflict that began when Israel launched a bombing campaign prompting Iran to respond with missiles and drones. U.S. President Donald Trump had demanded Iran's "unconditional surrender" on Tuesday. "This nation will never surrender," Mr. Khamenei said in a speech, in which he called Mr. Trump's ultimatum "unacceptable".

"America should know that any military intervention will undoubtedly result in irreparable damage," he said. Mr. Khamenei had earlier vowed the country would show "no mercy" towards Israel's leaders.

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz on Wednesday said that jets had destroyed Iran's internal security headquarters after the Army announced it was striking military targets in Iran's capital Tehran.

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Work hour issue: No decision in a hurry, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While labour unions in the State are vociferously opposing the proposed amendments to the Karnataka Shops and Establishments Act, 1961, to stretch the existing work hours from nine to 10, Labour Minister Santosh Lad told *The Hindu* on Wednesday that there would be more consultation on the issue and that the final decision "will be helpful to the working class."

Labour Secretary Rohini Sindhuri on Wednesday met stakeholders, where opinions in favour of and against the proposed amendment were received from employers' organisations as well as trade unions.

FULL REPORT ON
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Back to business

Fresh catch: A fisherman with a Cobia fish at a jetty in Rameswaram of Tamil Nadu on Wednesday after the ban period on fishing imposed by the State government ended on Monday. The ban is enforced annually to protect fish during the breeding season. L. BALACHANDAR

Israel-Iran conflict leaves Karnataka village anxious

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Indian Embassy is in touch with stranded persons and has facilitated their relocation to safer areas. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

The residents of Alipur, a village in Gauribidanur taluk of Chickballapur district in Karnataka, are an anxious lot. Located around 70 km from Bengaluru, the village has a population 25,000, of whom an estimated 90% are Shia Muslims. The community is concerned about the safety of nearly 100 residents who are stuck in Iran amid the escalating tension with Israel.

These residents had travelled to Iran for various reasons, including pursuing Islamic theological studies, medical education, pilgrimage, and business activities. With the region becoming increasingly unstable, families in Alipur are gripped with fear and concern, hoping for the safe return of their loved ones.

Shafeeq Abidi, a well-known Urdu poet and former journalist from Alipur, explained the village's long-standing cultural and religious connection with Iran. "Our historical association with Iran dates back to the time of the Adil Shahi dynasty, which ruled the Bijapur Sultanate. As a predominantly Shia Muslim village, we share deep religious ties with Iran, which is a Shia-majority nation," he told *The Hindu*. "Many of our youth travel there to pursue religious studies, and more recently, MBBS courses, as education in Iran is relatively more affordable," he said.

According to Mr. Abidi, nearly 50 Alipur residents are studying Islamic theology in Qom, while about 15 students are enrolled in medical colleges in Tehran. In addition, 25 to 30 people from the village are in Iran either on religious pilgrimage or for business purposes in cities such as Mashhad and Qom.

The residents have been in constant touch with their loved ones in Iran, and many have sought assistance from the Indian Embassy in Tehran.

Maulana Syed Mohammad Yousha, imam of Masjid-e-Jafaria in Alipur, told *The Hindu* that the Indian Embassy had responded swiftly. "The embassy has been in touch with stranded persons and has facilitated their relocation to safer areas. Many have been moved from Tehran to Qom with the help of local Iranian authorities. However, we are anxious about their safety," he said.

Mir Ali, a resident, expressed deep concern for his son Aman, who is studying in Iran. "I spoke to him yesterday. Thankfully, he's safe for now, and the Indian Embassy is in touch with him," he said, his voice filled with worry.

"They have moved him to a safer location, and he told me there's no war-like situation as of now, but as a father, I can't help but feel anxious," he added.

The residents have taken steps to ensure the safety of those abroad. Anjuman Jafaria, a local community organisation, has submitted detailed information about the stranded individuals to the Indian Embassy, local police, and officials of the Government of Karnataka.

Under pressure from MLAs and greens, Cabinet meet shifted to Vidhana Soudha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The infrastructure at Nandi Hills had received a significant facelift ahead of the proposed Cabinet meeting. K. MURALI KUMAR

In a surprise development, the Congress government shifted the venue of the State Cabinet meeting, earlier scheduled to be held at Nandi Hills in Chickballapur district on Thursday, to Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru.

According to sources, MLAs of Chickballapur and Kolar region met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and told him to hold the Cabinet meeting at Nandi Hills only if the government was ready with a big financial package for the region, like it had announced projects for Kalaburagi and Mysuru regions by holding Cabinet meetings there in the recent past. The MLAs reportedly opposed the Cabinet meeting with a routine agenda.

Public demand

MLAs have reportedly told the Chief Minister that it was difficult for them to answer to the public if the Cabinet did not make any big announcement to the region after holding the meeting at Nandi Hills.

Meanwhile, environmentalists had been opposing the Cabinet meeting on the hills citing possible damage to the ecology.

Prominent environmentalists, legal experts, and social activists came together at an event organised by World Human Rights Service Foundation on Tuesday in Bengaluru demanding that the ecologically sensitive area be declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a biodiversity conservation zone. They also opposed the proposed ropeway.

Also, reports suggested that the government was afraid of the mango growers' protest as they had planned to stage a protest at Nandi Hills during the Cabinet meeting, under the leadership of the JD(S).

The government is facing the heat of mango growers of Chickballapur and Kolar districts, as they were demanding the MSP of ₹15,000 per quintal for their produce. Mr. Siddaramaiah had written to the Centre requesting the latter to procure the fruit.

Amul vs. Nandini: KMF will open kiosks at eight Namma Metro stations, says DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BMRCL had issued a global tender for food outlets in 10 Namma Metro stations in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

After the Opposition BJP and JD(S) slammed the ruling Congress in Karnataka for "favouring" Gujarat-based Amul over Nandini, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has said that the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has been instructed to submit applications to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to open its outlets in eight stations in Bengaluru.

BMRCL had called for a global tender to open outlets in Metro stations, and Amul was the lone applicant and was allowed to open 10 kiosks at Metro stations in Bengaluru. The Opposition alleged that this amounted to failure in promoting the State-run Nandini brand of milk and milk products.

Responding to this, Mr. Shivakumar said, "We have instructed KMF to submit its application to BMRCL. The KMF will open Nandini outlets in eight metro stations." He explained that Amul had already opened its outlets in two metro stations and it was not appropriate to close down the existing outlets. "We have informed the BMRCL to allow KMF to open Nandini outlets in the remaining eight metro stations," he said.

Previous controversy

The Amul vs. Nandini issue had sparked controversy before the 2023 Assembly election, with Opposition parties accusing the BJP, which was then in power both in the State and at the Centre, of trying to undermine Nandini by backing Amul by alleged efforts to merge KMF with Amul.

On Wednesday, BJP MP P.C. Mohan cited this and posted on X, "Ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, Congress accused the BJP of favouring outsiders. But now, the same Congress government, which oversees @OfficialBMRCL's operations and maintenance, has enabled Amul kiosks at 10 Metro stations to displace Nandini."

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok argued that the government owes huge pending dues to farmers towards their milk incentive and was "determined to destroy the Nandini brand that has been built through hard work by farmers and committed consumers."

When contacted, BMRCL officials refused to comment on the controversy.

India might lack experience, but we won't take it lightly

The star batter expects a keenly contested series; feels that though England is a very strong side at home, Gill's men have got a lot of bases covered

GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

JOE ROOT

Ashwin Achal

With several big names having recently retired – Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Stuart Broad and James Anderson, to name a few – the Indian and England Test teams must now go through a period of transition. There is, however, one comforting constant. If ever England need an experienced statesman to carry the load, they can turn to Joe Root. A prolific run-scorer with 153 Tests under his belt, Root has revelled as the side's batting mainstay.

Speaking ahead of the start of the five Test India-England series, Root reminisced about being a wide-eyed youngster making his Test debut against India in 2012.

Among the greats of the game, Root expects a tough fight from the Indians, even as he misses going up against his ultimate contemporary, Virat Kohli.

Excerpts:

You are 283 runs short of overtaking Rahul Dravid to become the fourth highest run scorer in Test cricket history. If you could go back to the start of your career, did you ever think that you would ever reach this milestone?

I couldn't believe my luck when I walked out to bat in that debut Test match in Nagpur. I would have been so proud of myself if I had just played that Test alone. To get the opportunity to play so many games for England is obviously a huge privilege for me. It is something I'm extremely proud of. It's been so much fun till now. I want to keep going and enjoying it for as long as I can.

Patience, stubbornness, willingness to bide one's time – these are qualities that make classical Test batting. Do you think that these qualities are in short supply in today's game?

No, I don't think that Test cricket is short on those things. It is just that cricket across all formats is ever evolving, it's ever changing. Players are always trying to find different ways to get ahead of the curve, to try and outsmart the opposition, and stay ahead of trends. In Test cricket, teams have more modes of operandi now.

There is more variety - you have different types of bowlers, more left armers, more varied spinners, and guys who use the crease a lot more than they would have done 20 years ago. There are a lot more subtle changes that I think the introduction of white-ball cricket and T20 cricket has provided Test cricket. But the element of stubbornness, willingness to be tough and outlast – these are all really important qualities even now, even if the game is played a little bit quicker.

What do you make of this Indian team, especially considering the new leadership and relatively inexperienced batting line-up?

I think that this is an extremely talented Indian team. Indian cricket has a huge amount of depth now across all formats. It must be quite difficult sometimes to pick a playing XI because there are so many good players to pick from. It is going to be a really strong series on both ends. Obviously, we're a very strong side in our own conditions, but India have got a lot of bases covered.

They've got a brilliant seam attack, quality spinners at home and away and so much talent with the bat. They might lack that experience that they may have had on previous tours, but we won't be taking them lightly. India are going to play good, strong, hard cricket. They always do. It should be a ripper of a series.

How do you view Shubman Gill, the new India Test captain?

I think he'll want to put his stamp on things. He'll want to lead his team in his own way. It's always exciting for any team when they start a new era. We've been through that ourselves with Ben (Stokes) in the last couple of years. It's been so much fun, and I'm sure it'll be the same for the Indian players. We expect some high-quality cricket. What more could you want, really? As a player, you want to play against the best teams in the world and you want to perform in those environments. And we'll have some brilliant crowds. There'll be great atmosphere in the grounds. We're expected to have good weather this week, so it should be a great start to things and a very exciting five matches ahead.

Virat (Kohli) and Rohit (Sharma) will not feature in this series. Do you feel the competitiveness between India and England will reduce as a result?

Cricket is poorer with them not being around. They are two Indian legends, who have done amazing things for Indian cricket for such a long period of time. But their departure brings an opportunity for others to step in and show what they can do for India. So it'll be a slightly different look to things, but we still expect it to be highly competitive.

Does Kohli's retirement reduce the motivation when it comes to your competition with him?

I never felt like I've been in competition with Virat. He is someone I've always admired and thought, 'Wow, what a player.' I'm sure he's going to do special things for India for a long period of time to come yet in ODI cricket. But I've never felt like I was competing against him. You're trying to play the situation. You're trying to play the bowlers in front of you. But yes, when you play against Virat, he makes his presence felt and known. That's his nature as a player, and that's how he gets the best out of himself. I'll miss those battles we had on the field, but as I say, it just provides new opportunities for other players to try and put their mark on Test cricket and create new dynamics.

GETTY IMAGES

You are 15 centuries away from Sachin Tendulkar's record of most number of hundreds in Test cricket. Do you think that you'll be able to break this record?

It's always dangerous when you set yourself targets and records. I think you always end up letting yourself down or being disappointed because you've either set the target too low or you've missed it and you've fallen short. What keeps me motivated is trying to find ways of affecting the game as frequently as possible. And that could come in many different ways, shapes and forms.

It might be catching at slip, it might be trying to nick a few wickets with off-spin. Hopefully, a lot of the time will be with scoring heavily with the bat. But that all comes down to managing the situations, managing the conditions well, and the different bowler types.

There are reports that the ICC plans to introduce four-day Tests. What are your views on this proposal?

I don't really understand why you'd need to change it to four days. Especially coming from England where it rains a lot, you're basically asking for more draws, which nobody really wants. You don't want a match to peter out on day four because there's not enough time left. It doesn't really make sense to me. You're basically saying you're losing out on that for – I don't really understand for what reason – other than trying to clear a couple of days in the calendar.

Watch India's tour of England from June 20 (3.30 p.m.) live on Sony Sports Ten 1 & Sony Sports Ten 5 channels.

INBRIEF

BWSSB presented with Guinness Record certificate

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar received the official Guinness World Record certificate on behalf of Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) on Wednesday.

A water conservation campaign the board took up from March 21 to 28, began with Cauvery Aarti at Sankey Tank, has set a record for maximum number of pledges (5.33 Lakh) to conserve water in a week.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Shivakumar said that the recent water hike taken up after over a decade was an attempt to reduce the losses to the board by about ₹500 crore annually. "We are still not able to break even. But we are trying to reduce losses," he said, adding that still about 35% of the property owners are not paying bills regularly. "Presently, we are now providing water to newly added areas to BBMP in 2007-08 through Cauvery V Stage," he said, referring to Cauvery VI Stage, for which a DPR is under way.

Dassault and Ramaiah varsity announce partnership

Dassault Systèmes and Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS), announced a strategic Technology and Innovation Partnership.

The collaboration will establish a Centre of Excellence for Advanced Product Development and Research on the RUAS campus in Bengaluru.

The centre will serve as a cutting-edge technology and innovation hub for engineering design, simulation, and next-generation research, powered by Dassault Systèmes' 3DEXPERIENCE platform, according to a release.

Despite SC backing, *Thug Life* release is doubtful in State

Film has no takers in the State as it has failed to meet expectations at the box office elsewhere; the movie is struggling to touch the ₹50-crore mark in India even after two weeks of its release; it is slated to drop on Netflix after its theatrical run

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

There seems to be no respite for Kamal Haasan's *Thug Life* in Karnataka. A day after the Supreme Court directed the State to release the film, distributors from Karnataka are unwilling to buy the gangster drama owing to its poor theatrical run across the country.

Thug Life, which hit cinemas worldwide on June 5, 2025, missed its release in Karnataka owing to a controversial remark from Mr. Haasan. During a promotional event, he said that "Kannada language is born from Tamil", leading to widespread opposition in the State.

Members of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (Praveen Shetty faction) during a protest against actor Kamal Haasan. FILE PHOTO

The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) expressed its non-cooperation with the film until an apology from the actor. The makers of *Thug Life* moved court for a smooth release of the movie. Despite a favourable response from the Supreme Court, *Thug Life* has no takers in Karnataka as it has failed to meet expectations at the box office. After two weeks of its release, the movie is struggling to touch the ₹50-crore mark in India. Made on a estimated budget of ₹300 crore, *Thug Life* is heading towards a disaster.

The film, which reunited Mr. Haasan with director Mani Ratnam after 38 years, carried massive expectations.

However, the movie received mixed to negative responses from critics and fans alike.

"*Kuberaa*, with a star cast of Dhanush, Nagarjuna Akkineni, and Rashmika Mandanna is slated for release this Friday. Apart from that, Aamir Khan's highly-anticipated *Sitaare Zameen Par* is hitting theatres this week. Distributors will prioritise new films. The verdict of *Thug Life* is known. No distributor will show interest in buying the movie," said Aravind, a distributor from the State.

M. Narasimhalu, chairman, Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC), said the chamber's intention was never to ban the movie. "The controversy wasn't about the movie at all. We stood by Kannada organisations, theatre owners and distributors, who blamed Mr. Haasan for hurting their sentiments with his statement, and sought an apology," he said.

Mr. Narasimhalu added that theatre owners fear running the film to empty houses owing to immense criticism of the movie on social media. "Distributors who have paid the advance are planning to ask the makers to return the amount as they have no confidence in making a profit by releasing the movie."

Thug Life, produced by Mr. Ratnam and Mr. Haasan, is slated to drop on Netflix after its theatrical run. Reports say the OTT platform is re-evaluating the standard eight-week window.

"The movie is likely to drop on OTT in the next two weeks. Distributors will have no benefit buying the film for such a short period," said Mr. Aravind.

Police serve notice on activist Praveen Shetty

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The R.T. Nagar police on Wednesday served notice on Karnataka Rakshana Vedike activist Praveen Shetty in the wake of an order by the Karnataka High Court on the release of Kamal Hassan starrer *Thug Life* across the State.

The notice pasted outside his house stated that action will be taken if there is any protest over the film's release, which is a violation of the High Court order.

In case of any protest or dharna anywhere apart from the designated place, which is Freedom Park in Bengaluru, strict action will be taken, the notice stated.

The police also tried to hand over a copy of the notice, but he refused stating that he was not taking any responsibility for the protest.

The police have made elaborate security arrangements as preventive measures.

SHRC finds large-scale lapses at five rehab centres

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) on Wednesday carried out inspections at five rehab centres in and around the city, and found the residents allegedly being detained illegally, tortured, and treated in an inhuman way.

The SHRC had asked the jurisdictional police to investigate the lapses and take legal action.

The officials also wrote to the district administration seeking a reply and recommend immediate measures to improve the facilities. Based on a complaint, a team of officials visited Mother Ammu Foundation, Belaku Social Service, Dasanapura, Unity Social Service in Makali, Sanjeevini Trust in Kempapura, and Goodlife Trust in Kachohalli, Magadi Road.

Inspections found that the residents were allegedly being treated in an inhuman manner.

Two residents were allegedly found beaten up, while two others were bedridden with open wounds with no medical facilities. They had serious ailments and were not given medication nor were their families informed, a senior police officer, who was part of the raid, said.

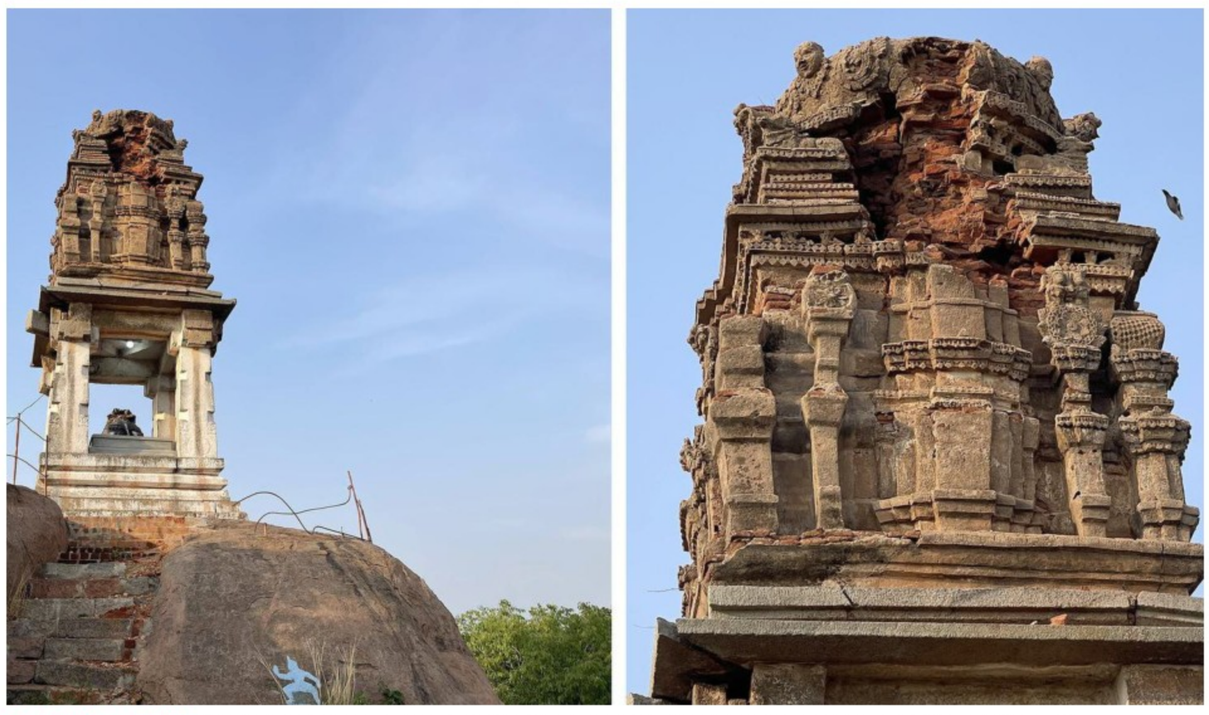
In another rehab centre, at least two residents were found to be normal but forcibly admitted by their family members to resolve civil disputes.

In another centre, a majority of the residents were from Kerala.

The inspections found that a majority of the residents were non alcoholics who were allegedly subjected to physical torture.

There were no basic facilities and a shortage of staff and counsellors and doctors, officials said.

In a shambles



Crying for attention: The Magadi Gopura, a tall and decorative tower on a boulder behind the Someshwara Swamy temple at Aladakattepalya village, is in a dilapidated condition. The tower, built by Kempe Gowda II, overlooks the town of Magadi. K. MURALI KUMAR

Skull, human bones found in percolation pit of city apartment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Residents of Credence Flora at Begur were shocked to find a human skull and bones in one of the percolation pits in the apartment complex at Mico Layout while cleaning the site on June 16.

Based on a complaint by Skariya John, president of the residents' welfare association (RWA), the Begur police have registered a case, and sent the skull and bones for forensic analysis.

The police are awaiting a report from the experts, which could provide more details, including the age of the deceased.

In his complaint, Mr. John said that the RWA had given a contract to clean up 16 percolation pits in the apartment.

While cleaning one of the pits, the workers found the human remains. They alerted Mr. John, who informed the police.

State to roll out Hepatitis B vaccination drive for healthcare workers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With stocks of over two lakh doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine, the Karnataka Health Department is all set to roll out a drive to vaccinate all healthcare workers against the viral infection that causes inflammation in the liver.

The drive, being taken up under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP), will cover over 56,000 healthcare workers who have reasonably anticipated risks for exposure to infectious materials, including blood or bodily fluids, contaminated medical supplies and equipment, or contaminated environmental surfaces, said a senior official in charge of the programme.

According to a circular issued by the State Deputy Director (NVHCP) in this regard on Wednesday, each healthcare worker will be administered three doses of the intramuscular injection into the upper arm at a gap of one month and six months respectively after the first dose.

Hepatitis B vaccine stocks have been supplied by the central division to the state vaccine warehouse in Bengaluru. The stocks are now being dispatched to the district drug warehouses as per the requirement. The vaccine should be administered to all health workers (medical and paramedical staff) working in the sub-centre, primary, and community health centres, and taluk and district hospitals of the respective district, the circular stated.

The vaccine supplied to the district drug warehouses should be in coordination with the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) officers to understand the requirement under the routine immunisation programme. The District Tuberculosis Control Officers should take action in supplying the vaccine and administering it to the eligible beneficiaries. The report of vaccination to the beneficiaries should be entered in the NVHCP/MIS portal, and the staff will soon be trained on administering the vaccine and reporting, the circular added.

Govt. hospital ties up with NGO to provide geriatric, palliative care close to home

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The State-run C. V. Raman General Hospital in Bengaluru has tied up with One Billion Lives Foundation (OBLF), an NGO, to provide geriatric and palliative care services for needy patients close to their houses. Initially, the services will be provided in around 12 slums of Hoysalanagar (ward 80) where the hospital is located.

Apart from in-patient care, the collaboration will enable provision of primary day care through a network of community clinics that are being established in schools and other such centres within slums for outpatient consultation and screening at the community level. The goal of palliative care is to prevent and relieve suffering and improve the quality of life for those battling terminal illnesses.

As part of the collaboration, a 12-bed ward, including six beds for female patients, has been set aside in the hospital. While the outpatient and referral services have started at the hospital, the in-patient unit and a vehicle for home care – procured through CSR funds – will soon be handed over by the hospital to the NGO.

The Sir C.V. Raman General Hospital at Indiranagar in Bengaluru. Initially, the services will be provided in around 12 slums at Hoysalanagar (Ward 80) where the hospital is located. FILE PHOTO

Understanding palliative care

- Palliative care improves the quality of life of patients and that of their families who are facing challenges associated with life-threatening illness, whether physical, psychological, social or spiritual. The quality of life of caregivers improves as well
- The global need for palliative care will continue to grow as a result of the ageing of populations and the rising burden of noncommunicable diseases and some communicable diseases
- Early delivery of palliative care reduces unnecessary hospital admissions and the use of health services
- Worldwide, only about 14% of people who need palliative care currently receive it

Source: WHO

Screening process

Hospital medical superintendent K.S. Rajesh told *The Hindu* that population-based screening and line listing of patients in Hoysalanagar slums is set to begin in a few days.

"We will focus the initial screening efforts in the 12 slums in this ward. The localities of Jairaj Nagar, Murphy Town, Lakshmipuram, Binnamangala, Harijan Seva Samaj (home

As part of the collaboration, a 12-bed ward, including six beds for female patients, has been set aside in the hospital

to a population of about 10,000) have been identified for an initial intervention. We have also identified two places to set up the community clinics in these slums. Home care will be provided to those who are not in a position to come to the community clinics," the doctor explained.

Palliative care physician Gopukrishnan Pillai, who is the programme director from OBLF, said a team comprising clinical, public health and management experts is being set up to run the project in Bengaluru.

"We are also working closely with the hospital authorities to obtain Recognised Medical Institution (RMI) status for the Palliative Care department. This will ensure adequate and uninterrupted availability of essential narcotic drugs. We are hoping to formally launch the full-fledged department and home care by mid-July," Dr. Pillai said.

Decentralised model

"This project evolved out of our ongoing primary healthcare programme in two gram panchayats of Anekal taluk. In a little over a year, a highly decentralised model of community-based Geriatric and Palliative Care (GPC) has been firmly established in partnership with the public health system, covering nearly a third of the taluk (just under 100,000 population)," he said.

The programme undertakes a structured population-based approach to engage with different communities and groups. "With the help of volunteers recruited from the community, our nursing team identifies patients who are likely to benefit from the programme. These individuals are provided clinical services as appropriate to their goals of care. After screening, they will be provided the required care and medicine at the community clinics. While home care will be provided to those who cannot come to the clinics, those who need hospital care will be shifted to the hospital," he explained.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUN. 19		
RISE	05:54	SET 18:48
RISE	00:22	SET 12:46
FRIDAY, JUN. 20		
RISE	05:55	SET 18:48
RISE	01:02	SET 13:41
SATURDAY, JUN. 21		
RISE	05:55	SET 18:48
RISE	01:46	SET 14:39

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	28	20
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Mosty dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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A BG-BGE

Trade tariffs close borders but may open doors to invasive alien species

Shifting trade agreements and new ties between previously unlinked nations may further the spread of novel invasive alien species; countries may focus on relationships rather than stricter checks on imports from new trade alliances; some nations may lack infrastructure to support checks

M. Nobinraja
Priya Ranganathan

India has been a major exporter and importer of exotic species. Many are introduced in the ornamental pet trade, especially the aquarium trade, or for biocontrol purposes, as in the case of mosquitofish, guppies (shown here), and angelfish. HOLGER KRISP (CC BY)

Around 1847, in colonial Calcutta, an unexpected visitor arrived, likely hidden in plant crates or trade goods from East Africa. The giant African snail (*Lissachatina fulica*) entered India without fanfare, admired at first for its size and shell. But what seemed ornamental soon revealed itself to be the country's most persistent invasive alien species.

Thriving in the region's warm, humid climate and free from natural predators, the snail spread rapidly with human help, from Bengal's gardens to the farmlands of the Western Ghats. By the mid-20th century, crops and ornamental plants had been ravaged, native snails displaced, and soil ecosystems altered. Worse, the snail had become a carrier for parasites like the rat lungworm, threatening humans and wildlife.

The giant African Snail is an example of how slow-moving, unnoticed arrivals can reshape ecosystems. Poor quarantine, a lack of rigorous monitoring, and policy failures allowed this mollusc to get far and wide. A world of rising global trade and subsequent species movement increase the risk of similar invasions.

Trade and invasive alien species

The surge in global trade since the 1800s has indirectly contributed to biological invasions in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The number of alien species rose 20x by the early 19th century. Bilateral trade agreements increased from 76 countries forming 5,700 trade pairs in 1948 to 186 countries forming over 34,000 pairs by the early 2000s. Now, trade tariffs mooted by the Trump administration in the U.S. are contributing to changing, reviving or initiating new trade deals between countries.

Invasive alien species are introduced by increased human activity around the globe. The introduction of these exotic species can be deliberate or accidental. For example, the introduction of cane toads *(Bufo marinus)* in Australia, *Gambusia* in India and *Poecilia reticulata* in Japan are examples of deliberate biocontrol initiatives gone wrong. On the other hand, accidental introductions often happen via the export and import of biological goods, such as timber, plant products, vegetables, fruits, and grains.

Biofouling is one such introduction scenario. When ships travel between countries without cargo, they are filled with ballast water to help the ship stay stable on the high seas. Biofouling – the undesirable accumulation of plants, animals, and algae on surfaces – sometimes occurs during the filling and flushing of ballast water, transporting exotic species from one region to another. The Asian paddle crab was introduced from the Northwest Pacific and East Asian waters to New Zealand, where it carries the white-spot syndrome virus, in this way.

When trade takes a turn

Shifting trade agreements and new ties between previously unlinked nations may further the spread of novel invasive alien species between continents. Countries may focus on forming relationships rather than imposing stricter sanctions on imports from new trade alliances. Some nations may not have the infrastructure to support checks on imported or exported goods given the sudden rise in new trade partners. In such scenarios, India too is at risk of letting more invasive alien species enter our borders.

India has been a major exporter and importer of exotic species. Several species are in different stages of establishment and spread in the country, making it difficult to track their entry and expansion. Many are introduced in the ornamental pet trade, especially the aquarium trade, or for biocontrol purposes as in the cases of mosquitofish (*Gambusia* species), guppies (*Poecilia reticulata*), and angelfish (*Pterophyllum scalare*). Some species are introduced through the food industry, such as Tilapia, which was brought to boost food production but instead established itself in Indian waterways, eventually outcompeting native freshwater fish species.

In another example from 1955, when food was scarce in India, the government imported wheat from the U.S. under their PL 480 ('Food for Peace') programme. But the wheat was of an inferior quality and contaminated with *Parthenium* seeds, and first entered the Pune market. Today, *Parthenium* grass is widespread in India, being found even in the remote corners of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

A 2022 study found that India has lost $127.3 billion (₹830 crore) to invasive alien species over the last 60 years, rendering the country the second-most financially affected by invasive alien species in the world, after the U.S. But this data only stems from the calculated costs of 10 invasive alien species from the 2,000+ alien species known in India.

Indeed, negative economic impacts have been recorded for only about 3% of known invasive alien species in India; such data remain unavailable, underreported, or overlooked for the remainder. Semi-aquatic and aquatic invasive alien species pose a greater fiscal burden than terrestrial species because they often affect high-value sectors like public health, water infrastructure, and fisheries, where control and damage costs are significantly higher. Indeed, the highest monetary burden from semi-aquatic species is solely from the yellow fever mosquito, which is a financial liability as well as detrimental to public health.

The giant African snail shows how unnoticed arrivals reshape ecosystems. Poor quarantine, a lack of monitoring, and policy failures allowed this mollusc to get far and wide. Rising global trade and subsequent species movement increase the risk of similar invasions

One Biosecurity

To reduce the risk of importing invasive alien species, India needs to strengthen its national policy. Specifically, it means enforcing stricter biosecurity at ports and other entry points and developing real-time species-tracking and early-warning systems that can catch invasion events before they get out of control.

The country also needs greater collaboration between government departments and researchers to maximise knowledge generation about potentially invasive species and their spread given various climate change scenarios and shifting trade routes.

Finally, India must implement mandatory post-trade biological impact assessments, typically in quarantine facilities managed by the respective department, to ensure unwelcome guests are not here to stay.

Implementing and strengthening policies to reduce the spread of invasive species is one step towards managing their consequences on the native biodiversity. In the light of the prevailing international trade agreements, the risk of these species' introduction remains high due to a lack of infrastructure, dedicated institutions, and policies focused on mitigating their spread. Freight transport between growing economies is projected to triple by 2050, especially maritime and air cargo transport, increasing invasion risk by reducing travel time and improving the survivability of alien species.

Today, we're still experiencing the effects of alien species introduced several decades ago.

Similarly the effects of alien species introduced in 2025 will only surface decades in future, when it may be too late to reverse the tide. Strengthening India's border biosecurity must be a top priority to avoid the worse consequences of invasion. Like One Health, a 'One Biosecurity' framework if implemented at the earliest will better our chances of managing invasive alien species.

(Nobinraja M. is a post-doctoral fellow at ATREE working on invasive alien fishes. Priya Ranganathan is a doctoral student at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru, studying wetland ecology and ecosystem services. nobin.raja@atree.org, rpriya.ecology@gmail.com,)

Honda R&D successfully landed its 6.3-metre-tall reusable launch vehicle after reaching an altitude of 271 metres. BORUI WANG/UNSPLASH

Honda conducts surprise reusable rocket test, aims for suborbital launch by 2029

Agence France Presse

In a pleasant surprise, Japan's second-biggest carmaker Honda successfully tested an experimental reusable rocket, the company said, as it seeks to expand into the space sector.

Honda, which hopes to develop the tech prowess for a suborbital launch by 2029, conducted a test flight of its rocket on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

While "no decisions have been made regarding commercialisation of these rocket technologies, Honda will continue making progress in the fundamental research with a technology development goal of realising technological capability to enable a suborbital launch by 2029," it said in a statement.

"The test was completed successfully, the first time Honda landed a rocket after reaching an altitude of nearly 300 meters," the statement dated June 17 added.

Honda R&D, the research arm of Japan's second-biggest carmaker, successfully landed its 6.3-metre-tall experimental reusable launch vehicle after reaching an altitude of 271 metres at its test facility in northern Japan's space town Taiki, according to the company. The vehicle landed only 37 cm away from its designated landing spot after the minute-long flight.

Demand for satellite launch rockets is expected to increase in the coming years as expectations grow for "a data system in outer space," the Honda statement said.

Reusable vehicles are driving commercial space efforts, led by Falcon 9, owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX. The company's U.S. rivals, including Blue Origin, also have reusable rocket plans

"Honda has chosen to take on the technological challenge of developing reusable rockets by utilising Honda technologies amassed in the development of various products and automated driving systems," it added.

In future, the rockets could be used to set up satellite-based communication tools and to monitor environmental conditions such as global warming, Honda added.

Reusable launch vehicles have been the driver of emerging commercial space missions over the past decade, led by Falcon 9, owned and operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX. The company's U.S. rivals, including Blue Origin and companies in China and Europe, also have reusable rocket plans.

The Indian Space Research Organisation is also working on a Reusable Launch Vehicle, although it is still undergoing tests and there is no fixed launch date in sight.

Honda in 2021 had said it was studying space technologies such as reusable rockets, but it had not previously announced the details of a launch test. A suborbital launch may touch the verge of outer space but does not enter orbit.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) is also on a mission to become a major player for satellite launches, including with its H3 rocket, which is not reusable.

Meanwhile, Japanese startups are vying to enter the busy field, including Space One, which in December 2024 suffered its second failed rocket launch.

For example, Tokyo-based Innovative Space Carrier last month said it will test-launch a prototype reusable rocket in the United States in December using an American engine.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Dig to go back in time

Manaswini Vijayakumar

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

Large stone structures or megaliths come in two board types: monolithic and polylithic. A polylithic structure with one horizontal stone placed on top of two vertical stones is called a _____. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

Single standing stones or monoliths of the neolithic age are called _____. They can be found across Europe and many have astronomical functions. The longest and most complex alignment of menhirs can be found in a commune called Carnac in France. Fill in the blank. Hint: They also feature in 'Asterix and Obelix' stories.

QUESTION 3

Name the remote-sensing technology that archaeologists use to measure the height of a built platform or structure with respect to the earth's surface. Part of the technology was developed in the mid-20th century, just after the laser was invented, as a military tool to estimate distances.

QUESTION 4

Identify the archaeological practice in which half of a feature, like a hearth or a wall, is excavated and the other is left untouched onsite (*in situ*). The practice helps archaeology understand its profile and stratigraphy.

QUESTION 5

Historical eras have types of pottery associated with them that may explain their cultures and practices. For example, the Northern Black Polished Ware is associated with Iron Age settlements in the _____ _____ in 700-200 BC. Fill in the blanks.

Manaswini Vijayakumar is interning with The Hindu.

Answers to June 17 quiz:

1. Mammal notorious for the stinky compounds it emits – **Ans: Skunk**
2. Object that stinks due to N,N-Dimethylmethanamine – **Ans: Rotting fish**
3. Odour rooted in poor oral hygiene – **Ans: Halitosis**
4. Compound responsible for smells of jasmine flowers, poop – **Ans: Skatole**
5. Substance whose odour butyric acid is responsible for – **Ans: Vomit**

Visual: **Durian**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Yagyesh Shukla | Joe V.R. | Mahima Sajani Jacob | Tamal Biswas

Visual: Name the city of the Harappan Civilisation famous for wells like this and for its water management practices. It was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021.
CREDIT: RANGA SAI (CC BY-SA)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

BBMP seizes goods of street vendors on Church Street

Vendors stage impromptu protest; activists demand that civic officials serve notices and do a *mahazar* of the seized goods

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Firm action: BBMP personnel seizing goods of street vendors on Church Street on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When civic officials came armed with an empty lorry to seize goods being sold by street vendors on Church Street on Wednesday, most of the vendors ran to hide their wares. The officials seized the goods of three vendors and dumped them in the lorry and were about to leave like they did many times before. However, Wednesday turned out to be different as the vendors staged an impromptu protest.

Swami Gowda, who sold caps and socks on the footpath, said that the civic body, under pressure from shopkeepers and residents of Church Street, had been trying to evict them since November, 2024. "The BBMP comes armed with a lorry, seizes our goods, and takes them without even giving us an acknowledgement of the seizure. Most times, we don't even get back half of the seized goods. What we get back is usually damaged. It is wrong to target us like this. We have had enough of this and staged a protest on Wednesday, demanding an acknowledgement for the seizure," he said.

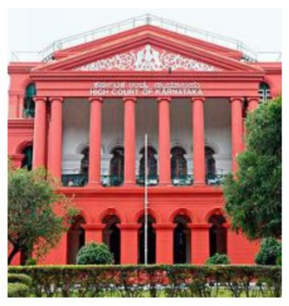
Social activists supporting street vendors came to the spot and demanded that civic officials serve notices and do a *mahazar* of the seized goods as per the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.

"Civic officials who came for the drive refused to perform *mahazar*. After a protest and an intervention by the police, an officer gave an undertaking in writing, without any formal sign, or seal from the civic body. The officials only allowed us to take a photograph of it and did not even give us the original," said Hamdan Quraishi, an activist who was at the spot.

Mr. Quraishi further alleged that the police also sided with civic officials and were trying to disrupt the impromptu protest, quoting a High Court order saying any protest outside Freedom Park was illegal.

Extortion case: High Court stays investigation against prime accused

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



The High Court of Karnataka has stayed investigation against former police head constable, Nigappa G. alias Nigappa Savant, a prime accused in the case of alleged extortion of crores of rupees from public servants by telling them that the Lokayukta police are likely to conduct raids against them, and investing extorted money in cryptocurrency.

Also, the court stayed the notice issued to Srinath Joshi Mahadev, an IPS officer, who was till recently posted as a Superintendent of Police in the Lokayukta police wing, asking him to appear for questioning in connection with the extortion case as investigation had found that he had certain links with Nigappa.

Continue probe

Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar, who passed the separate interim orders staying the actions against Ningappa and Srikant, has, however, given liberty to the Lokayukta police to continue the probe against other persons in the extortion case.

The Court gave the liberty to continue the probe against others as the Lokayukta police informed the court that the prime accused has named 35 other persons in connection with alleged extortion.

It was revealed in the preliminary probe that Ningappa possessed 13 cryptocurrency wallets in his name, in the name of his family members and others and the probe is looking into the possibility of involvement of those within the Lokayukta police wing as Ningappa was frequently visited Lokayukta police's office in Bengaluru.

It was also alleged that Ningappa was calling officials of excise, transport and other department on the pretext that he is giving them information from the Lokayukta police and extorting money by blackmailing them.

In his petition, Srinath has claimed that he was asked to join the investigation without providing any basic details of the case to him contrary to the court's direction that police should give a copy of the First Information Report (FIR) while summoning any persons in connection with the investigation into a criminal case.

Meanwhile, the court on Wednesday adjourned till June 19 the hearing of a petition filed by Ningappa's wife complaining that arrest of her husband was illegal as he was produced before the magistrate on June 2 even though he was arrested from Hosadurga on May 31.

Lokayukta police nab BBMP EE 'accepting' bribe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lokayukta officials on Wednesday caught an executive engineer of BBMP allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹10 lakh for an official favour. The accused, H.V. Yarappa Reddy, working in the BBMP, CV Raman Nagar office, allegedly demanded the bribe from Hemanth G.M., a contractor.

Unable to pay the amount, Mr. Hemanth filed a complaint and a team nabbed Reddy red-handed. He was booked. His house was later raided and gold and silver articles along with incriminating documents were allegedly recovered.

Karnataka gets two years to become eligible for RDSS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central government has given the Energy Department two years to become eligible for the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) by recovering all pending arrears of electricity supply companies (escoms), Energy Minister K.J. George said on Wednesday.

When Union Minister of Power Manohar Lal Khattar was recently in Bengaluru for an event, he advised the Energy Department to prepare a road map for the recovery of pending dues. Karnataka is one of the very few States that missed out on RDSS as escoms were owed over ₹8,500 crore from various government departments at the time.

Eligibility for the scheme will also help consumers who install smart meters as a 15% subsidy (up to ₹900) will be provided by the Union government. It is now mandatory for all new and temporary connections to install smart meters in the State. Mr. George said that he also wants to propose to the Cabinet that smart meters be installed in all government offices.

In a bid to enhance the transmission network of the State, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) will set up three 765 kv substations - one each in Central, North, and South Karnataka.

"We will be one of the few States to have these substations," said Pankaj Kumar Pandey, managing director, KPTCL.

THE HINDU GROUP

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THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of NRIs from Andhra Pradesh stuck in war-ravaged Iran

100 Andhra Pradesh NRI Empowerment and Relations Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said the State government reached out to non-resident Indians from the State who are stuck in Iran. He stated that a 24/7 control room is actively monitoring developments. PTI

Number of Iranians killed in Israeli strikes so far

585 Israeli strikes on Iran have wounded over 1,300, a human rights group said. State media, also a target of bombardment, have stopped reporting on the attacks. After knocking out much of Iran's air defence system, Israel says its warplanes have free rein over the skies. AP

Nissan vehicles for which engineering analysis was closed

2 In million. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it had closed an engineering analysis on Nissan Motor vehicles. The investigation which covered Nissan Altima and Nissan Maxima vehicles looked into whether the lower control arm of the rear suspension system may separate from chassis. REUTERS

The budget for Delhi's courtrooms digitisation project

387 In ₹ crore. The Public Works Department of Delhi government plans to rework the courtrooms digitisation project, which was approved by the previous AAP dispensation last year. The work has to be executed by the PWD, for which a fund was also approved. PTI

Number of arrests made under Kerala's anti-drug campaign

769 The Kerala government is stepping up its fight against drug abuse with a large-scale campaign aimed at building a drug-free society. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the fifth phase of the anti-drug campaign will launch on June 26. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why are oil prices rising amid Iran-Israel war?

How much has benchmark Brent crude futures risen? How important is the Strait of Hormus and why is its closure a threat to trade stability? How is India positioned to handle an increase in oil prices? Has it been able to diversify its import basket for oil?

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

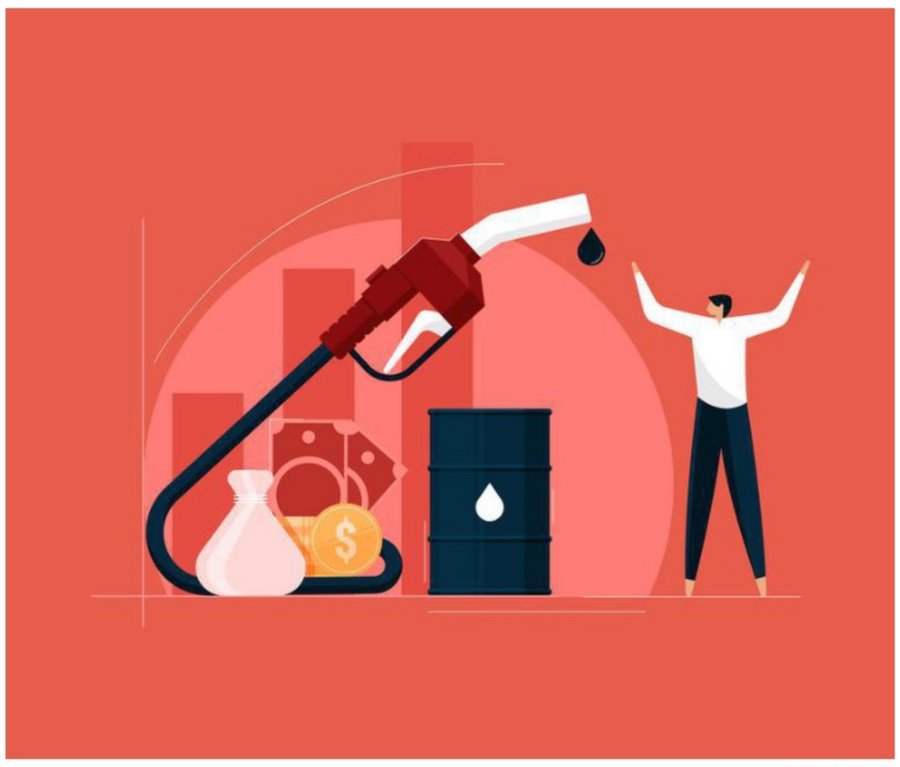
The story so far:

Escalating tensions between Iran and Israel sent oil prices spiralling upwards with fears mounting about a potential disruption in oil supplies globally. The benchmark Brent crude futures had soared about 9% on June 13 to $75.65 for a barrel after it hit an intraday high of $78.50/barrel - a near five-month high. The paradigm however eased on June 16 when news reports suggested that Tehran has asked Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Oman to urge U.S. President Donald Trump to press Israel to agree for a ceasefire. At the time of writing (8 p.m. on June 17), Brent crude futures were about 2.4% higher from Monday at $74.98/barrel.

Why are prices rising?

Iran has repeatedly threatened to close down the Strait of Hormuz. It is the chokepoint that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea. For perspective, chokepoints are narrow channels along widely used global sea routes that are utilised for transporting oil through sea. The closure of a chokepoint, even if for a temporary period, can translate to potential delays in supply, reduction in traffic and rise in shipping and insurance costs – all of which culminates into an increased price for energy fuel. Though alternatives exist for some chokepoints, they could entail significant increase in transit times. In fact, from the larger perspective of trade, Pankaj Chadha, Chairman of the Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India explained to *The Hindu* last week that the escalation of the conflict in West Asia would bar access to the Suez Canal and the Red Sea. "(This) will have a huge cost and time escalation for Indian exports by ship," Mr. Chadda held.

U.S.' Energy Information Administration (EIA) in an analysis said that the Strait was "deep and wide enough" to handle the world's largest crude oil tankers. It further observed that the Strait facilitated transportation of an average of 20 million barrels each day (mb/d) in 2024. This is equivalent to approximately one-fifth of the global petroleum liquids consumption. Additionally, the International Energy Association (IEA) attributed the Strait to have served as an exit route from the Gulf for approximately one-fourth of the global oil supply including from major oil-producing nations such as Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates alongside Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq and Iran itself.



ISTOCKPHOTO

According to EIA's estimates, 84% of the crude oil and condensate alongside 83% of liquified natural gas were transported via the Strait headed to Asian countries in 2024.

Can the world manage uncertainty?

IEA indicated in its June outlook report that oil markets in 2025 "look well supplied" in the absence of a major disruption. This is premised around expectations of supply being able to surpass demand. IEA forecasts world oil demand to increase by 720 thousand barrels a day (kb/d) this year whilst supply is projected to rise 1.8 mb/d to 104.9 mb/d. Additionally, it observed from preliminary data that global observed oil inventories have risen by 1 mb/d on an average since February, and 93 million barrels in May alone. However, it cautioned, "while the market looks comfortably supplied now, the recent events sharply highlight the significant geopolitical risk to oil supply security."

Furthermore, JM Financial observed in their recent sectoral report that there could be a "huge upside risk" if Iran disrupts the supply from the Strait of Hormuz. However, it holds the scenario as "extremely unlikely" for "U.S. and Western countries are likely to take strong measures against any such disruptions given the huge risk it can pose to global oil and gas prices and, hence, inflation."

Imperative to note though that Iran's own production capacity may not have a significant bearing in the paradigm. This is owing to U.S. sanctions on import of Iranian crude oil. Tehran's major export destination is China. Refineries in the Asian country have particularly benefited from discounted fuel from the West Asian counterpart.

What about India?

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ratings agency ICRA, observed that while crude oil prices have risen quite sharply over the past few days, it has been from "rather benign levels". She holds that should the price persist at the current levels, it may not lead to a "material revision" in ICRA's GDP forecast of 6.2% for the fiscal. "However, a sustained increase from the current levels would weigh on India Inc's profitability and the extended uncertainty may further delay private capex expenditure," Ms. Nayar told *The Hindu*. She summarised this could translate to a downward revision in ICRA's GDP growth projections for the second half of the fiscal. On the aspect of supply, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri affirmed that India having diversified its import basket is comfortably placed to meet its fuel supply needs. The primary concern with respect to India could be about how things shape up at the Strait of Hormuz. India does not import petroleum crude from Tehran. However, Amit Kumar, Partner and Energy and Renewable Industry Leader at Grant Thorton Bharat had told *The Hindu* last week, "India imports more than 80% of its crude oil needs. Hence, even if direct imports from Iran are minimal, global price spikes due to conflict will raise crude oil import costs."

With inputs from TCA Sharad Raghavan

THE GIST

- The benchmark Brent crude futures had soared about 9% on June 13 to $75.65 for a barrel after it hit an intraday high of $78.50/barrel.
- Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ratings agency ICRA, observed that while crude oil prices have risen quite sharply over the past few days, it has been from "rather benign levels".
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What was decided at the UN Oceans Conference?

Why is the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction agreement important for marine conservation?

Jacob P. Koshy

The story so far:

The United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC) concluded last week in France, with 56 of the necessary 60 countries ratifying the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, also called the 'High Seas Treaty.'

What is the UNOC about?

The third edition of the UNOC aimed to accelerate action on protecting oceans. Its main goal was to establish marine-protected areas in international waters and thereby prevent over-fishing as well as deep-ocean mining. This deals with parts of the oceans that are not under the territorial limits of countries and thus the equivalent of a global commons. A separate convention, called the Convention on Biological Diversity has the world's nations committing to conserve 30% of the world's marine and coastal area as 'protected areas' by 2030. A key objective of the UNOC is to deal with operational aspects of this aspiration, by getting countries to commit to the BBNJ. While 160 countries have signed it, ratification – or having countries align their own laws with the demands of the agreement – is a harder task. The treaty requires 60 ratifications to trigger a 120-day countdown before becoming legally binding. UNOC saw progress with 56 countries ratifying it. The U.S. hasn't ratified it as has India, though the latter has said it is in the "process" of doing so. Once in force, the treaty will create marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction, conduct environmental impact assessments, regulate marine genetic resources, and support capacity-building for developing nations. The UN expects to reach 70 ratifications by September, with the intention of hosting the first BBNJ Conference of Parties (COP), like the annual climate COPs, in late 2026.

What are the key hurdles to the BBNJ?

The most contentious aspect of the BBNJ is the sharing of benefits from resources. The high seas are known to have exotic life-forms. While extracting these are challenging, there still isn't a firm consensus for determining how any commercial benefits from these life-forms will be shared given that this is a territory that doesn't belong to any one entity. Given that the purpose of the conference is to preserve the ocean from wanton extraction, several environmental groups have pointed out that without a ban on extraction, the oceans are doomed.

What were UNOC's achievements?

The key takeaway is a host of voluntary commitments. The European Commission announced an investment of 1 billion euros to support ocean conservation, science and sustainable fishing. French Polynesia pledged to create the world's largest marine protected area to safeguard its seas, covering its entire exclusive economic zone, approximately five million square kilometres. New Zealand committed over $52 million towards supporting enhanced ocean governance, management and science in the Pacific Islands region. Germany launched a 100 million euro immediate action programme for the recovery and clearance of legacy munitions in the German Baltic and North Seas – the first of its kind. Thirty-seven countries, led by Panama and Canada, launched the High Ambition Coalition for a Quiet Ocean – a first of its kind initiative to tackle ocean noise pollution on a global scale. Italy committed 6.5 million euros to strengthen surveillance by the Coast Guard in marine protected areas and oil platforms. Canada contributed $9 million dollars to the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance to help Small Island Developing States and coastal developing countries increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions. Spain committed to creating five new marine protected areas that would allow protection of 25% of its marine territory. A collective of UN agencies launched a co-design process for One Ocean Finance – an effort to unlock billions from ocean-dependent industries and blue economy sectors.

THE GIST

- The third edition of the UNOC aimed to accelerate action on protecting oceans.
- The most contentious aspect of the BBNJ is the sharing of resources. While extracting these are challenging, there still isn't a firm consensus for determining how any commercial benefits from these life-forms will be shared given that this is a territory that doesn't belong to any one entity.
- The European Commission announced an investment of 1 billion euros to support ocean conservation, science and sustainable fishing.

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan,
Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 52.
Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP TO CANDIDATES OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES WHO ARE PURSUING FULL TIME PH.D FROM GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED UNIVERSITIES (J.R.F MODEL) 2025-26

Online Application

Online applications are invited through Seva Sindhu portal for those students belonging to minority communities of Karnataka State. pursuing Ph.D during the year 2025-26.

Timeline

Online applications starts from: 13.06.2025.

Last date for submission of online applications: 30.09.2025.

Eligibility

- Students must be resident of Karnataka State.
- Students who belong to minority communities - Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi.
- Candidates currently working in Govt/Private institutions are not eligible for the fellowship.
- Student's annual family income should not exceed Rs. 8.00 Lakh.
- The students must pursue Ph.D in Universities recognised by Government of India/Karnataka.
- The upper age limit for students should not exceed 35 years.
- Course-Full Time.
- Aadhar seeding and NPCI mapping to bank account is mandatory to avail the scholarship.
- Eligibility conditions for M.Phil&Ph.D fellowship scheme is subject to the Government orders and Guidelines issued by the government from time to time.

Instructions for Applicants

- Applicants are instructed to apply online for the Ph.D. schemes through below link: **https://sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in/Sevasindhu/DepartmentServices**
- For further details, Instructions & Procedure please visit the below website https://dom.karnataka.gov.in
- Visit the nearest District Minority Office, Minority Information Center for further assistance.

Date: 13.06.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1329/2025-26

CITY CORPORATION VIJAYAPUR
No:CCV/PWD/EE/DMA/TND/E-proc/2025-26 Dated:10.06.2025

KPP PORTAL SHORT NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, City Corporation Vijayapur invites tenders from eligible tenders registered the 1) 13 works under 15th Finance 2025-26 Fund. 2) 02 works under SFC in other premises Fund and 3) 02 works under SFC Drinking Water Fund. Tenders are called in standard tender document through KPP portal. for further details visit onine web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Note: 1) Tender Corrigendum and Addendum will be issued in kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal

1)Last date for Tender submission:25.06.2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
City Corporation, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/126/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ

ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ.ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ–1/ಟೆಂಡರ–07/2025–26/730 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.06.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ –ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್)

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವದು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ–3) ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುವದು.

(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: **23–06–2025 16.30** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: **24–06–2025 16.30** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (3) ಟೆಂಡರನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: **26–06–2025 17.00** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (4) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: **30–06–2025 17.00** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: **H/Ac 5054 MDR Improvements Appendix-E During 2024-25** ವರ್ಕ ಇನಡೆಂಟ್ **(1) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 21222**

(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ–3) ರಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **kppp** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾದ ನಿಭಂದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ **"https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in"** ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227)** ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/192/25-26 dt.18.06.2025

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division,
R.R. Nagar Zone, Bengaluru-560098.

No.BBMP/EE(Proj)/RRN/TEN/04/2025-26 Date:18.06.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Project Division, R.R. Nagar Zone, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of work
1	Supplying and Erection and Commissioning and Testing of 120 Feet Height Chimney in Animal Electrical Crematorium at Summanahalli, Ward No. 73. Estimated Amount : **Rs. 128.50 Lakhs.** EMD : **Rs. 1,92,750/-** Period for completion of work : **120 Days.**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal **from 21.06.2025 onwards. 2)** Last date for receipt of queries : **24.06.2025 upto 3.00 p.m. 3)** Last date for submission of tenders: **02.07.2025 upto 4.00 p.m. 4)** Opening of Technical bid: **03.07.2025 at 4.30 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK KPP Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact office of the undersigned .

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Division, R.R. Nagar Zone.

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan,
Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 52.
Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCENTIVE FOR STUDENTS STUDYING IN B.Sc NURSING AND GNM NURSING COURSES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

Online Application

For the academic year 2025-26, students belonging to minority communities in Karnataka, who are pursuing B.Sc Nursing/ GNM Nursing Courses can apply online for incentive.

Timeline

Start date to apply online for applications: 13.06.2025.

Last date to apply: 30.09.2025.

Eligibility

- Students must be resident of Karnataka State.
- Students who belong to minority communities (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi) may apply.
- Nature of course - full time.
- Student's annual family income should not exceed Rs.2.5 lakhs.
- Students will be selected on merit basis, depending upon the availability of the funds for the year 2025-26.
- Students must have scored min. 50% marks in the previous exam in order to avail the incentives.
- Students who have scored less than 50% in the previous exam will be considered depending upon the availability of the funds.
- Aadhar seeding and NPCI mapping to bank account is mandatory to avail the scholarship.
- Eligibility conditions for this incentive scheme is subject to the Government orders and Guidelines issued by the government from time to time.

Instructions for Applicants

- Applicants are advised to apply online for incentive through this link: **https://sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in/Sevasindhu/DepartmentServices**

For further detailed instructions, eligibility criteria, and procedure please visit Directorate of Minorities official website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the nearest District/Taluk Minorities Information Centre (MICs) and District Minority Welfare Offices.

Date: 13.06.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1328/2025-26

Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
M.159 / 2025-26	CE / MM	8MVA 33 kV Outdoor Power Transformer

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit the websites, **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/3122/Tender/2025

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer(Project),
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 009.

No.:BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(P)-2/546/2025-26 Date:17.06.2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)
(Through KPP Portal only)

BWSSB invites Expression of Interest from interested parties for "Non-binding Expression of Interest for Design, Supply, Financing, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of Bio-gas purification, compression and supply systems at five(5) Sewage Treatment Plants(STPs) under BWSSB jurisdiction across Bangalore.

The last date for submission of EoI : **05.07.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.** The proposal will be opened on **07.07.2025.** The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact undersigned office during the working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(Project).

DIPR/CP/JA/1326/2025-26

ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562107.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–27821501, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_attibele@yahoo.com
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.attibeletown.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಅಪುಸ/ಆಪಾ/ಪ.ಆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಇಆರ್/135/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.06.2025

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(Through Gok KPP Portal https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in only)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್ಎಫ್‌ಸಿ ಮುಕ್ತನಿಧಿ, 2024–25 & 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್ಎಫ್‌ಸಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು, 2021–22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಂಪಿಸಿ ಅನುದಾನ, 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು (Tide & Un Tide) ಮತ್ತು ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 08 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.42315. 42281, 42278. 42250, 42247, 42229, 42156 & 42364) ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತರು ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಹತೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 42315, 42281, 42278, 42250, 42247, 42229, 42156 & 42364 ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 27.06.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 05.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **KPP Portal https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in** ಮತ್ತು ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ,
ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/1308/ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್/2025–26

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, Navanagar, P.B. Road, Hubballi–25
Website: hescom.karnataka.gov.in

Corporate Identity Number CIN: U31401KA2002SGC030437

No : HESCOM/DF/CA/DCA/AO(RA)/25-26/Cys: 2388 Date : 17-06-2025

NOTIFICATION
Nomination of member representing prosumers to CGRF at Corporate Office, HESCOM.

In accordance with the Regulation No. 3.2.1 of KERC (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum and Ombudsman) (Third Amendment) Regulations 2025 **dtd. 20.05.2025,** applications are invited for nomination of one member representing prosumers to CGRF at Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi (Prosumer means a person who consumes electricity from the grid and can also inject electricity into the grid for distribution licensee, using same point of supply).

Any persons who are interested in becoming member representing prosumers to CGRF at Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi, may submit their application letter and personal information to the Controller (A&R), Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi within 7 days.

Member representing prosumers shall hold the Office for a period of THREE (3) years and he shall be paid a monthly honorarium and Sitting Fee as determined by the Commission from time to time. He shall also be entitiled to Travelling Allowance (TA) and Dearness Allowance (DA) as admissible to Class I Government Servant.

DIPR/Dharwad/302/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

Sd/- Controller (A&R)
Corporate Office, HESCOM

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BALLARI THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bids are invited for the following works. The tender details can be downloaded and shall be submitted through e- Procurement portal i.e. **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. (1) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2572/CALL-4, Dtd: 13.06.2025.** "Servicing, Testing & Commissioning of 3 no. Diesel Engines and Dismantling, Servicing, Testing & Commissioning of diesel engine driven Hydrant, Spray & Booster Spray Pumps, motor driven Booster Spray pump including providing & erection of Deluge Valves of BCN#36 conveyor of Unit#3 Fire protection sytem at BTPS. Amount put to tender: **Rs.18,64,040/-.** EMD: **Rs. 46,610/-.** Contract Period: **180 Days.** Last date to submit the offer: **27.06.2025, 17.00 Hrs. (2) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2912, Dtd: 14.06.2025.** Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of internal structure of Unit: 3, ESP 5C-23 field along with installation of all connected equipment and mechanism. Amount put tender (Approx): **Rs. 84.37 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1,43,000/-.** Period of Work: **30 days. (3) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2870, Dtd: 13.06.2025.** BTPS Unit#2 500MW and Unti#3 700MW 'D' Meter Survey of boiler tubes bends, replacement of eroded tubes/bends, inspection/rectification/replacement of shrouding's/cassette baffles of tubes/bends in second pass Boiler. Amount put tender (Approx Excluing GST): **Rs. 38.06 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 76,200/-.** Period of Contract: **1 Year extendable by six months. Procurement: (4) KPCL/2025-26/IND1690.** Oil Seals and O-Rings for CHP. **(5) KPCL/2025-26/IND1706.** Hydrochloric Acid technical grade as per IS265:1993. **(6) KPCL/2025-26/IND1707.** Liquor Ammonia. **(7) KPCL/2025-26/IND1711.** Skirt board accessories for CHP. Last date for receipt of tenders: **28.06.2025 for Sl.No. (4) to (6) and 27.06.2025 for Sl.No. (7).** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer(Satety)BTPS, M.No. 9448290770** for Sl.No. (1), **Executive Engineer (BM), M.No. 9480830316** for Sl.No. (2) & (3) and **Executive Engineer(Purchase)BT, M.No. 9480830377** for Sl.No. (4) to (7), BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152, Bellary District, during office hours.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU · the hindu businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · The Hindu Young World · THE HINDU

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Email: stores.dis@tnpl.co.in

TNPL Unit-I Invites Tender for sale of following "Waste and Scrap of Polythene Sheets" on Six months rate contract / **"as is where is"** basis.

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
2025018	Waste and Scrap of Polythene Sheets	03.07.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Quantity, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from website : **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/3133/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: E-217810/I/149656/2025 Date: 16.06.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites tender for Manufacture & Supply of following material as per technical specification:

Tender No	Transformer proposed for Procurement	Quantity (Nos)
MESCOM/2025-26/IND0124	25KVA CRGO Core Star-1	2,800
MESCOM/2025-26/IND0125	63KVA CRGO Core Star-1	750
MESCOM/2025-26/IND0126	100KVA CRGO Core Star-1	200

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.06.2025**

DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/331/25-26 dt: 16.06.2025

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Procurement)

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Lakes-MDP) Room No. 306,
3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office,
N.R.Square, Bengaluru-560002

No. EE/Lakes-MDP/TN-02/2025-26 Date : 18-06-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Tender Notification)
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders on Item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Inlet improvements and pathway works at Ambalipura Melinakere and inlet repair at Ambalipura Kelaginakere. **Value of work :** Rs. 63.55 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 1,27,100/- **Eligibility of Contractor :** General
2	Providing Waste weir to Gunjur Palya and Panathur Lake-I. **Value of work :** Rs. 84.74 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 1,69,480/- **Eligibility of Contractor :** General
3	Development of Ambalipura Sy. No. 24. **Value of work :** Rs. 84.74 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 1,69,480/- **Eligibility of Contractor :** General

(1) Bid documents can be downloaded from **21-06-2025** from the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) (2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **30-06-2025 at 15.30 hours** in the office of the Executive Engineer (MDP-Lakes), BBMP. **(3)** Tenders must be submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or before **16.00 hours on 07-07-2025 (4)** Technical Bids will be opened on the website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** in the office of the Executive Engineer (MDP-Lakes), BBMP on **08-07-2025 after 16.30 hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Lakes - Mahadevpura)

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division,
South Zone, Room No. 101, Annex-3 Building,
BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.

No. EE(QA/QC)/South/TEND/04/25-26 Date: 18.06.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control Division, South Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Chief Commissioner, BBMP invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms those who have similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC)" for the below works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Improvements to roads, drains and other improvement works in J.C. Road, Sudhamanagara CKC garden, Kalasipalya, Cubbon Pet, Vinobhanagara and surrounding area in Ward No. 160, Dharmarayaswamy Temple & Ward No. 161 Silver Jubilie Park.	400.00	10,000/-
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Improvements to roads, drains and other improvement works in Sunkenahalli, Samirapura, Kempegowdanagara, Dattatreya layout, Chikkanna Garden and surrounding area in Ward No. 162, Sunkenahalli.	250.00	6,250/-
3	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Improvements to roads, drains in Block No. 26, 17, 19, 15, 25, 14, 21, 12_1, 18 & 78 in Ward No. 160-Dharmaraya Swamy Temple Ward in Dharmaraya Swamy Temple Sub-division.	150.00	3,750/-
4	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Improvements to roads, drains in Block No. 39, 112, 96, 38, 95 & 40 in Ward No. 161-Silver Jubilie Park Ward in Dharmaraya Swamy Temple Sub-division.	200.00	5,000/-
5	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Improvements to roads, drains in Block No. 34, 25, 48_2, 35_1 & 98 Ward No. 161 Silver Jubilie Park ward in Dharmaraya Swamy Temple Sub-division.	150.00	3,750/-
6	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Improvements to roads, drains in Block No. 77, 79, 80, 85, 42_2, 42_1, 2, 35, 20 & 1_2 Ward No. 164-Hombegowdanagara Ward and Block No. 62, 17, 36, 16, 61, 15 & 50 Ward No. 165-B. Venkatareddy Nagara Ward in Vishveshwara puram Sub-division.	400.00	10,000/-

Time Period : **Till completion of the project.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 20.06.2025. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **25.06.2025 at 11.30 am. (3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders : **30.06.2025 upto 4.00 pm. (4)** Date of opening of technical bid : **01.07.2025 at 4.30 pm. (5)** Validity of tender : **90 days from last date of receipts of tender.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC), South Zone, BBMP

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LAXMI, d/o: Bhimsenrao Kulkarni, r/o: Flat–6041, Wing 6, Sobha Royal Pavilion, Sarjapur Road, Hadosiddapura, Bengaluru– 560035. Have Changed My Name To Laxmi Bhimsenrao Kulkarni. Affidavit Date On 17/06/25.

I, BALAMURUGAN Chinnaiah, s/o Chinnaiah, residing at No 9C, 11th Main, 1st Cross, NRI Layout, Kalkere, Horamavu Post, Bangalore – 560043, Karnataka, India, have changed the name of my minor daughter Swastika Balamurugan born on 22–Oct–2012 and she shall hereafter be known as Nalli Balamurugan (all names listed as in Given Name then Surname order). Affidavit Notary ID 20224031356, dated 14–June–2025.

EDUCATIONAL

VACANCIES

REQUIRED

PROFESSOR'S :
Homoeopathic Materia Medica, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pathology & Microbiology.

ASSO. PROFESSOR'S
Human Anatomy, Practice of Medicine

ASST. PROFESSOR
Surgery

Contact:-Principal, Anuradha Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Srigandha Kaval, Bengaluru-91, Ph No. 9341850234 Email-anuradhahomoeopathy @ gmail.com

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, THIRUMALAI Sampathkumar Ramakantha, s/o: Sampathkumar Thirumalai, r/o: FF2 Sumukha Residency 3main 7cross Chikkalsandra, Ramajaneyanagar, Bengaluru, 560061. Have Changed My Name To Thirumalai Sampathkumar Ramakanth. Affidavit Date On 18/06/2025

I, Mincy mol Joseph (Old Name), W/o Jobymon Thomas residing at No.60 Thaipral House, 2nd Cross Muniswamy Reddy Layout, Margondanahalli, K R Puram, Bengaluru-560036 have changed my name to Mincy Joby (New Name), Vide Affidavit dated: 17/6/2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar K, Bengaluru

WE, SUHEL Salam and Salma Salam Parents of Safa Mariam residing at Flat No.5-10, 3rd Floor, B-Block, R. K. Heritage Apartments, Shampura Main Road, Bengaluru-560045 have changed the name of our minor daughter to Safa Salam vide affidavit dated 27/05/2025 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE SUBORDINATE JUDGE OF ATTUR (TAMIL NADU)
M.C.O.P.NO. 40 / 2022

1. Kavitlia, W/o. Late. Palanivel,
2. Manikandan, S/o. Late.Palanivel,
3. Karthika, D/o. late. Palanivel and W/o. Srinivasan, all are Now residing at Ramu Nagar, Vedanayagapuram Post, Kamakkapalayam Village, Thalaivasal Taluk, Salem District
.... Petitioner

Versus

1. J.Ganesan, S/o. Jambari Gounder, Hindu, residing at 38/26, 2nd Main Road, KPN extension, Bangalore-2, Karnataka State.
2. M. Shashekumar, S/o. Murugesan, Hindu, aged about 55 years, residing at No.13, 4th Main Road, New Tharagu Pet, Bangalore-2, Karnataka State
.... 3rd & 5th Respondents

NOTICE FOR RESPONDENTS No.3 & 5

The above named Petitioner filed a Road Accident Compensation Petition against the Respondents No. 3 & 5. The above Petition is posted for appearance of Respondents No. 3 & 5 before this Hon'ble Court on 26.06.2025 at 10:30 A.M. If any objection the above said Respondents No. 3 & 5 may appear before this Court in person or by Pleader. If failing which the above Petition will be heard and disposed of in your absence.

R.ARUMUGAM, B.A.,B.L.,
ADVOCATE, R.No. 133/1981
28, Railway Station Road,
C.S.I.Complex,
Attur Town, Salem (Dt) - 636102.
Cell : 9443409845

LEGAL NOTICE

COURT NOTICE
BEFORE THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
CM Appl. 2/2015 in(3711/15) MACA No: 3126 of 2015

Pettioner/Appellant
Haris, aged 35 years, S/o Muhammed Kunju, Kalloorveedu, Kollaka P.O, Karunagapally Pin-690536 Vs.

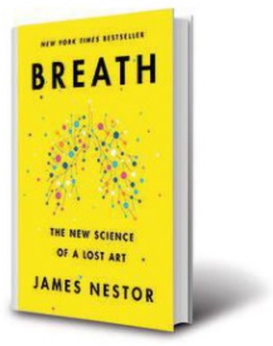
1st Respondent and 2nd Respondent
1. Syed Ajas, Shama Transport No: 16/1, A.V Road, Bangalore-560002
2. Rajeshkumar, S/o Sasikumar 14-51, D6. No:53,Santhi Nagar, Hosur T.K Krishnagiri, Bangalore-635109

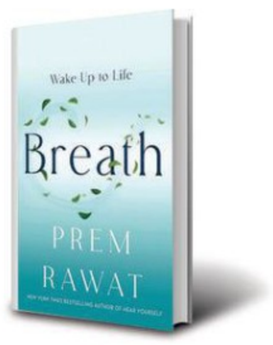
Take notice that a Motor Accident claims Appeal against award dated 15/10/2012 in O.P(MV) No: 1173/2007) of the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Kollam presented by Adv. S Santhosh Kumar on behalf of the Appellant is registered in this court. This Appeal will be posted for hearing on or after 26/6/2025. If no appearance is made on your behalf, by yourself or your Advocate in this Appeal, it will be heard and decided exparte in your absence.

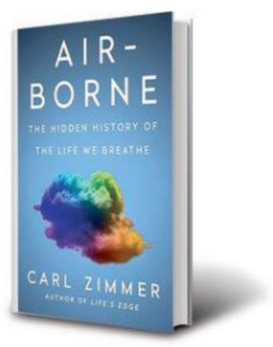
Dated this the 1st day of April 2025

Counsel for the Petitioner/Appellant

BIBLIOGRAPHY







GETTY IMAGES

Airborne dangers: why breath should not be taken for granted

Writers are immersing themselves in studying aerobiology and how it impacts human lives, especially after COVID-19; others are finding out more about the right way to breathe, and a journalist travelled the world to figure out what went wrong in how human beings are breathing

Sudhirendar Sharma

At the start of 2020, a small team of scientists tried and failed to convince public health organisations that COVID-19 was spread through the air we breathe. Until then, scientists thought that respiratory diseases spread through droplets, and that these droplets had a limited range. Coughed up, these droplets fell quickly to the ground, to use the disgusting terminology of the 1990s which health officials use while speaking about tuberculosis. In reality, however, breath has been a medium of transmission of most invisible things.

Such new insights into the living atmosphere were revealed courtesy of Carl Zimmer, through his book *Air-Borne: The Hidden History of the Life we Breathe*. The text follows the research of Louis Pasteur who caught germs from the air, and pursues groundbreaking experiments by Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh. It warns the world about airborne infections, and chronicles the dark side of aerobiology designed to spread anthrax, smallpox, and an array of other pathogens. Rather than be taken for granted, the importance of the natural process of human breath is once again established.

Protecting the most vital of all life processes calls for a well-thought-out strategy. Breath is in itself of immense value – one breath in and one breath out is the manifestation of life. A breath alone brings a newborn to life, the body turns pink as the first breath gets in. And, the last breath accounts for life. The power that ripples through the whole universe comes in the form of breath.

It is an intuitive act of inhaling and exhaling, which is repeated 25,000 times a day. This natural act, often taken for granted, is counted as a necessary biological activity. It is precious and more than just an exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide. 'Breath,' says Prem Rawat, 'is the greatest mystery, out of nowhere it comes to nowhere it goes.' In his book, *Breath: Wake Up to Life*, Rawat writes that breath is the beginning of life, the sustaining of life, and when it ceases, it is also the end of life.

The invaluable gift

Breath is an invaluable gift, but only if it is taken that way. Traditional practices related to breathing value breath and even try to prolong and preserve it. Sage Patanjali has his pranayama practices that add value to age-old breathing practices that have gained popularity among the health conscious. Buddha counted breath as an essential link between the human body and consciousness. The breathing process has many hidden features that are gaining wide acceptance. That breath fuels all life forms and extinguishes it too, is a lived reality. The natural act of breathing, now counted as a biological privilege, is a precious gift given in abundance.

Breathing must be correctively done because nine out of 10 people don't breathe correctly – aggravating a laundry list of chronic diseases, according to James Nestor. It is surprising that hospitals only deal with breathing emergencies related to specific maladies of the lungs. It is only in recent years that breathing as a branch of medical emergencies has been acknowledged.

The correct way to breathe

The way to correct breathing is an individual responsibility, but to think that it is a pretty simple act that is well understood could be a fallacy. Only by following a tough breathing regime could four hours of daily snoring be just 10 minutes. For this incredible change to happen, one has to go through an awful experience of forcefully breathing through the mouth for the first 10 days, and revert to nasal breathing for another 10 days with lips sealed with a piece of tape. The longer one breathes through the nose, the nasal cavities get clearer and bigger, writes Nestor in his new book, *Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art*.

Inhaling-exhaling techniques have been around for several millennia. Over the years, however, these techniques are being rediscovered and scientifically validated. "The fruits of this once-fringe, often forgotten research are now redefining the potential of the human body," explains Nestor. Limited but cutting-edge research in pulmology, psychology, biochemistry, and physiology has already demonstrated that many modern maladies – asthma, anxiety, psoriasis – could either be reduced or reversed simply by changing the way we inhale and exhale.

Stories on the magical aspects of breathing abound in the world of yoga practitioners, as the popularity of yoga in the past two decades has brought a large number of huffing and puffing exponents in public spaces. Whether or not they are breathing better remains to be ascertained. From alternate nostril breathing to breathing coordination, and from resonant breathing to Buteyko breathing – all techniques of breathing impact human health and longevity.

Nestor raises hopes of revolutionising the health sector by generating a renewed interest in breathing techniques to act as a preventive medicine that helps in retaining balance in the body such that milder problems don't end up being serious health issues. However, modern medicine has yet to take serious note of this wisdom generated by Buddhist monks over two millennia ago. If face is the index of mind, breath is the indicator of human well-being.

Sudhirendar Sharma is an independent writer, researcher and academic.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Garfield the Cat premiered on June 19, 1978. Here's a fun quiz to test your trivia of the grumpy cynical cat

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1
Garfield's favourite food is lasagna. This bears a connection to the place of his birth. Where was Garfield born?

QUESTION 2
One of Garfield's favourite sayings is 'Big fat hairy ____.' Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3
What is Jon Arbuckle's profession in the comic strip?

QUESTION 4
What is the name of Jon's brown-eared beagle, who is Garfield's best friend and usual victim?

QUESTION 5
Which famous comedian voiced Garfield in the 2004 live action movie?

Visual question:
This is the poster of Garfield's favourite movie. Name it.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This submersible imploded during a dive to the wreck of the Titanic. **Ans: Titan**
2. This person was elected presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America. **Ans: Katharine Jefferts Schori**
3. The first American woman to fly into outer space. **Ans: Sally Ride**
4. This treaty was signed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. **Ans: SALT**
5. This British explorer and mountaineer's disappearance on Mount Everest is one of the most-celebrated mysteries of the 20th century. **Ans: George Mallory**
6. This suffragist was fined after being convicted for voting in the 1872 presidential election. **Ans: Susan B. Anthony**
Visual: Identify this musician and the band he played for. **Ans: Paul McCartney,** *The Beatles*
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Sonali Das| Tamanjit Bisla| Tito Shiladitya| Haridas Pal

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Why are there so many policemen outside?"

"Somebody broke into my neighbour's house and...."

"....did he forget to lock the front door again?"

"He remembers locking the front door this morning but..."

"....shouldn't you say, he remembered to lock the front door this morning?"

"That's also acceptable. But there is a difference in meaning between 'I remember locking the door' and 'I remembered to lock the front door.'"

"There is? What is it?"

"If you say, 'I remember locking the front door,' it means, you locked the front door some time ago and you are remembering the fact now."

"So I lock the front door first and then later I remember?"

"That's right."

"So if I say, 'I remember meeting Madhuri six years ago,' it would mean, I met Madhuri six years ago and now I remember the meeting."

"That's right. The meeting took place first and now you remember the fact. But if on the other hand, you say, 'I remembered to lock the front door,' it would mean, that you remembered that you had to lock the front door and because you remembered, you locked it."

"So, in this case, I remembered first and then I locked the door. Correct?"

"That's right. You locked the front door because you remembered. Here are a couple of more examples. 'I remember doing my homework' and 'I remembered to do my homework'. In the first sentence..."

"....you have already finished doing your homework. You're remembering the fact now."

"Good. So, in this case, you do your homework first, then you remember the act of doing your homework. But if you say, 'I remembered to do my homework'...."

"....you reminded yourself that you had to do your homework and then proceeded to do it."

"Exactly! So, in this case, the remembering comes first and it is followed by the act of doing your homework."

"What did your neighbour lose?"

"I'm told that the thief ran away with his new VCR."

"Poor man! I think I now understand why my father says that every door and window need to be checked before..."

"....needs to be checked."

"What?"

"Every door and window needs to be checked, and not 'need' to be checked."

"But it is 'door and window'. So, doesn't it make it a plural subject?"

"No, it doesn't. The 'door and window' is preceded by 'every'. And whenever you have 'every' and 'each' preceding a noun, you have to treat it as singular. For example, every car, truck and van is required to stop for inspection."

"I see. Is it okay to say, each boy and girl was asked to bring a sweet?"

"Perfectly o.k."

Published in The Hindu on December 10, 1996.

Word of the day

Recede:
pull back or move away; retreat; become faint or more distant

Synonyms: draw back, pull away, retire, withdraw, drop off, fall back, fall behind

Usage: *His footsteps receded down the hall.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/recedepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɹɪˈsiːd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Daily flight to Dubai from Mangaluru suspended

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Air India Express has cancelled one of the two daily flights, flight numbers IX 813/IX 814, that it operates to Dubai from Mangaluru International Airport from June 17 to June 30, citing operational reasons.

With this, the weekly movement on the Mangaluru-Dubai sector has decreased to 11 flights against 18. IndiGo, however, continues to operate its scheduled four weekly flights to Dubai.

This reduction is primarily due to the sweeping airspace closures over Israel, Iran, Iraq, and Jordan due to the ongoing Middle East crisis. The shutdown has forced airlines to cancel or reroute hundreds of flights, significantly impacting operations between Europe, Asia, and the West Asia.

Outflow from Kabini increased; Hemavati shutters to be opened

Owing to the heavy rains, Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited has appealed to residents along both banks of the Kabini to avoid going near the water and to shift to higher ground; flow into the Krishnaraja Sagar has also increased

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU/SHIVAMOGGA

As monsoon continues to lash Karnataka, the outflow from the Kabini reservoir in Mysuru district of Karnataka was increased to over 25,000 cusecs on Wednesday, prompting a flood warning for people living downstream.

Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited (CNNL) has appealed to residents along both banks of the river to avoid going near the water and to shift, along with their animals, to higher ground for safety.

The outflow was increased consequent to rise in the rate of inflow into the reservoir, which was nearing its capacity. The inflow was 21,545 cusecs at 12 noon on Wednesday, while the water level was 2,280.84 ft. against the capacity of 2,284 ft.

A file photo of the Kabini reservoir which has registered a surge in inflow of water due to rains in the catchment area of Kapila river in Wayanad, Kerala.

The increase in inflow was attributed to heavy rains in the catchment region of the Kapila in the Wayanad region of Kerala.

KRS in Mandya

The rate of inflow into the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir in Mandya district has also increased owing to heavy rains in Kodagu district. The inflow was 29,368 cusecs while the reservoir level was 113.25 ft. against its capacity of 124.80 ft.

Kodagu district was a beneficiary of the early onset of the south-west monsoon this year, but after a week of intense rains in the last week of May, there was a lull. As a result, the figures for June indicated a deficit in rainfall. But the monsoon gained fresh vigour during the last 48 hours, which resulted in an increase in inflow into various reservoirs, including KRS and Harangi.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer of Hemavati project has also issued a warning to people downstream of the Hemavati reservoir, located at Gorur in Hassan taluk, to be alert as the crest gates of the dam can be opened to release excess water.

The water level in the reservoir has been on the rise with the incessant rains in the catchment areas. As of Wednesday morning, the water level stood at 2,911.35 ft. and the inflow was 19,546 cusecs. The water level was 10.65 ft. short of the maximum level.

Two killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two private firm employees were killed when a canter knocked down their two-wheeler on the outskirts of Chickballapur on Wednesday morning. The deceased have been identified as Krishnappa, 30, and his friend Prakash, 28.

The police said that they were on their way to work when the canter knocked down their motorcycle. The duo sustained severe head injuries.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (June 19, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- Why oil prices are increasing amidst Iran-Israel tensions **newsth.live/oilisraeliranexp**
- Trade tariffs may open doors to invasive alien species **newsth.live/invasivespecies**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Operation to clear dwellings in Nagarahole triggers outcry

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Forest Department of Karnataka carried out an operation in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve on June 18 to clear new constructions that had come up overnight even as tribals and activists cried foul over the move.

The incident is a fallout of the long-drawn dispute between the Forest Department and the tribal communities who have alleged that their claims under the Forest Rights Act have been rejected by the authorities.

On May 5 and 6, about 150 tribals from Attur Kolli forest areas who work in the local estates, had asserted their rights over forest land. They refused to vacate the place pending settlement of their claims. Some sheds or dwelling units were constructed at that time, and the 52 families, who had claimed rights over the forest land, were camping there.

Forest Department personnel dismantling huts in the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

J.Ananya Kumar, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Nagarahole Wildlife Division, said that the residential dwellings that were removed on June 18, had come up overnight, on June 17th, and were in addition to the six units constructed in May. ''The earlier dwellings have not been disturbed," he added.

The new huts were constructed in Nalikeri forest in the Nagarahole Wildlife Division and the authorities said that the tribal people blocked police and forest staff from entering the forests and they were forced to use an altenrative route to reach the spot and carryout the operations.

The operation was carried out in the presence of police amidst opposition from tribals and rights activists.

Ananya Kumar said the Forest Department was forced to clear the fresh construction. "If left unchecked, their numbers could proliferate and lead to large-scale encroachment of the tiger reserve."

The authorities said 52 families are claiming rights over the forest land, but available documents indicate that there was no hamlet by the name of Attur Koli in the records. But the activists refuted this and said local people have ration cards, death certificates, school certificates mentioning their village as Karikallu Atturu Koli village.

The local villagers have reached out to the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission and submitted a petition. The Forest Department was accused of suppressing the rights of individuals and the community to life, dignity, food, shelter, land, water and livelihood, all of which are fundamental human rights, according to the petition submitted to the KSHRC.

Facelift for Chamundi Hills inches closer to reality under PRASHAD scheme

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

After years of back and forth between the Karnataka government and the Centre, there is finally some progress on the development of Chamundi Hills under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) scheme of the Central government. The Department of Tourism has called a tender for the development of public amenities there.

Chamundi Hills in Mysuru is one of the sites in Karnataka that has been considered for development under the scheme which aims to provide sustainable religious tourism, along with the Sri Renuka Yellamma temple in Saundatti in Belagavi and the Paapnaash Shiv Temple in Bidar. The scheme looks to meet the needs of devotees as well as tourists, and build amenities that would encourage both the groups to visit the site more often.

Among the things that have been proposed for the Chamundi Hills project are drinking water and toilet facilities, a queue mandapa around the temple premises to ensure regular and unhindered pilgrim flow, stone columns along the stretch, redesigned steps of the hill, a multipurpose hall, footwear stands, a fountain the around Mahishasura circle, a police booth, etc.

A new look: Chamundi Hills is one of the sites in Karnataka that has been considered for development under the scheme which aims to provide sustainable religious tourism. M.A. SRIRAM

While a tender was first called a few months ago, the estimated cost of development came up to ₹108 crore, which is ₹60 crore more than the Central government's allocation for the project.

"We sent the proposal back to the Central government for the release of the additional amount, but they did not agree to do it. We then requested the State government to provide the extra funds and received their approval. Now, the Centre will give ₹48 crore for the project, while the State will give ₹60 crore," explained Salma Fahim, Principal Secretary, Tourism Department. She added, "We hope that this time we can award the tender and the work can finally begin."

There had been a considerable delay in the release of funds from the Centre for the Chamundi Hills project which led to tensions during the South India Tourism Conclave held in September 2024 in Bengaluru. H.K. Patil, Minister of Tourism, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, had said that "it was a matter of embarrassment." The Union Minister had then retorted saying that there was some work pending on the State's part.

Apart from the PRASHAD scheme, Chamundi Hills has also been included in the Centre's Swadesh Darshan 2.0., with an allocated cost of ₹23 crore. This will include a Tonga Ride Heritage Experience Zone and an Ecological Experience Zone.

Exclusive designer block print & traditional hand woven Chanderi, Maheshwari, Kosa Silk Sarees, Handloom Bed Covers in Batik, Bagh, Chemical Print, Dress Material, Dupatta etc.

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Art from the heart

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Ph.: 7353857787

• The Development Commissioner (Handloom), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
• Commissioner, Handloom and Handicrafts M.P. Govt.
• Sant Ravidas M.P. Hastshilp Evam Hathkargha Vikas Nigam Ltd. (A Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **Sanam Puri** has got an interim order stay before the Hon'ble Court Of Bengaluru in **O.S. No.4079/2025** against any person publishing any defamatory video or statement against our client, legal action will be taken against person violating the said order.

Bharathgowda B R
Advocate
No. 1135, 1st Floor, BEML layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098
Phone No. 6364666665

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Ernakulam Junction
TENDER NOTICE NO.DCE-II-CN-ERS-OT-03- 2025 DATED: 17.06.2025

Name of the work: Doubling of track between Ernakulam & Kumbalam-Modification of Officers Rest House at Ernakulam Junction and drainage works near the rest house area etc.

Tender Value: ₹ 79.21 lakhs.
Completion Period: 09 months.
Date of Opening: 09.07.2025 @ 15.00 hrs.

Complete details & tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy. Chief Engineer / II (Construction) Ernakulam Jn.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE (Re-Invitation)

Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2025-26-10 Date: 16.06.2025 DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works :- **Name of work with its locality:** Signalling work in connection with "Rehabilitation of S&T equipment at Interlocked LC Gates in Solapur Division of Central Railway. **Tender No.:** SUR-N- T-2025-26-10 **Cost of the work:** Rs. 2,22,29,955.58 **Cost of the tender form:** NIL **Earnest money to be deposited:** Rs. 2,61,200 **Completion period of the work:** 12 Months. Date & Time of Closing of tender on : **www.ireps.gov.in 09/07/2025 after 15.30 Hrs.** The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum/ amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in** The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in.** ANJ-53

अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.
Phone: 080-29776466 / 29776467 E-mail: bannerghattazoo@gmail.com

No: A3/BBP/FD/E-bidding-01/2025-26 **Date: 16-06-2025**

NOTIFICATION

The Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru, a unit of the Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK), herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invites e-Bid for competitive Rate of Interest for placing surplus funds of Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru from Nationalized Banks in Fixed Deposits (Non-Callable), whose Branch is in Bengaluru Limits only.

Detailed E-Bid documents may be downloaded from GOK Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last Date and Time for Submit Query **on 23-06-2025 upto 3.00 PM.** Date and Time to Confirm Participation of Interest in Auction **on 24-06-2025 upto 3.00 PM.** Evaluation: **26-06-2025 from 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM.** Live Bidding: **Commences at 10.30 AM and Concludes at 1.00 PM on 27-06-2025.**

Sd/-
Executive Director

DIPR/CP/1321/Adverto/2025-26

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Health Officer (West), Bhashyam Park, Sampige Road, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.

No: HO(W)/PR/456/2025-26 **Date:18.06.2025**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER(IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Health Officer (West), BBMP invites Short term tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for supply of works.

Sl.No.	Name of Works
1	Supply of Chemical Temephos Emulsifible Concentrate (EC) 50% for Mosquito Control Activities of West Zone BBMP. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 30.19 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.60,400/-. Class Eligible Contractor:** As per E-Procurement Portal. **Period of Completion:** 06 Months.
2	Supply of Alphacypermethirn 10% Suspension concentrate (SC) for Mosquito control activities of west Zone BBMP . **Estimate Cost: Rs. 31.02 Lakhs. EMD: Rs.62,100/-. Class Eligible Contractor:** As per E-Procurement Portal. **Period of Completion:** 06 Months.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded through e-Portal from **19.06.2025, 3.00 p.m. onwards.** (2) Date and time for Pre-bid meeting on: **21.06.2025 at 12.00 Noon.** (3) Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **25.06.2025 upto 5.00 p.m.** (4) Opening of Technical Bid: **27.06.2025 at 11.30 a.m.** (5) Opening of Financial Bid: **01.07.2025 at 4.30 p.m. (If possible).**

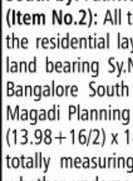
Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working day or from the KPP portal webiste: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Health Officer (West),BBMP

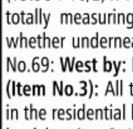
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha
No.113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore-560 004.
Phone: 22410151/ 22429151 /26601152 /9900569151
E-mail: sreenidhibank@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE - POSSESSION NOTICE

APPENDIX-IV
(See Rule 8(1)) r/w Sec. 13(4)(a)



Sri. Ashwath Nayak G



Smt. Manjula

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Central Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12),13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated **24/03/2025** calling upon the Borrowers to **M/s Vaishnavi Granite Exports Pvt Ltd., represented by its Directors 1. Sri. Ashwath Nayak .G S/o Govinda Nayak and 2. Smt. Manjula W/o G. Ashwath Nayak situated at No. 42/A, Saludoddi Village, Tataguni Post, Kanakapura Mian Road, Bangalore-560062, demanding to repay the amount of Rs.54,42,249/- (Rupees Fifty Four lakh Forty Two Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Nine only)** together with Interest and Costs thereon, being the loan amount due by them, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers have failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property mortgaged to the Bank and described in Schedule herein below, together with all rights to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale for realising the above mentioned amount (Secured Asset), in exercise of the powers conferred on them under Section 13(4)(a) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules on this **18th Day of June 2025.**

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha for a sum of **Rs.56,26,696/- (Rupees Fifty Six Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Six only) on 17/06/2025** together with interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

(Item No.1): All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.64 formed in the residential layout called "A.S.B.Nandi Residency" carved out of converted land bearing Sy.No.7, 11 and 14 of Kurubarahalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and Layout was duly approved by the Magadi Planning Authority in MPA/LOA/12/2013-14, measuring East to West (20.68+16.72/2) x 18.7 mtrs and North to South (12.19+ 12.82/2) x 12.50 mtrs., totally measuring 233.75 Sq.mtr with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: **East by:** Site No.54 and Site No.55; **West by:** Road; **North by:** Site No.65; **South by:** Pathway.

(Item No.2): All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.70 formed in the residential layout called "A.S.B.Nandi Residency" carved out of converted land bearing Sy.No.7, 11 and 14 of Kurubarahalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and Layout was duly approved by the Magadi Planning Authority in MPA/LOA/12/2013-14, measuring East to West (13.98+16/2) x 14.99 mtrs and North to South (15.37+15.24/2) x 15.30 mtrs, totally measuring 229.34 Sq.mtr with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: **East by:** Site No.69: **West by:** Road: **North by:** Road; **South by:** Site No.68.

(Item No.3): All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.232 formed in the residential layout called "A.S.B.Nandi Residency" carved out of converted land bearing Sy.No.7, 11 and 14 of Kurubarahalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and Layout was duly approved by the Magadi Planning Authority in MPA/LOA/12/2013-14, measuring East to West : (12.61+14.28/2) x 13.44 mtrs., North to South : (15.24+15.33/2) x 15.28 mtrs, totally measuring 205.36 Sq.mtr with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: **East by:** Road; **West by:** Site No.231; **North by:** Road; **South by:** Pathway.

(Item No.4): All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.233 formed in the residential layout called "A.S.B.Nandi Residency" carved out of converted land bearing Sy.No.7, 11 and 14 of Kurubarahalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and Layout was duly approved by the Magadi Planning Authority in MPA/LOA/12/2013-14, measuring East to West: 15.24 mtrs., North to South : 16.71 mtrs, totally measuring 254.66 Sq.mtr with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the : **East by:** Pathway; **West by:** Road; **North by:** ite No.234; **South by:** Road

(Item No.5): All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.237 formed in the residential layout called "A.S.B.Nandi Residency" carved out of converted land bearing Sy.No.7, 11 and 14 of Kurubarahalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and Layout was duly approved by the Magadi Planning Authority in MPA/LOA/12/2013-14, measuring East to West 15.24 mtrs and North to South 15.28 mtrs, totally measuring 232.86 Sq.mtr with all rights appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: **East by:** Pathway; **West by:** Road; **North by:** Road; **South by:** Site No.236.

Date : 18/06/2025
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

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Proposal to increase work hours likely to be referred to Cabinet

State government has planned to extend it from nine to 10 hours and allow increased overtime work, based on a direction from the Centre asking States to simplify the Act and rules that govern the working hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

> We will take a call after seeking concurrence of the Chief Minister and all Cabinet colleagues. No decision has been made yet. Any decision, which will be taken, will be helpful to the working class.
>
> **SANTOSH LAD,** Labour Minister

The proposal by the State government to increase work hours from nine to 10 daily and also allow increased overtime work is likely to be referred to the Cabinet before any decision is taken. This comes amid opposition from the Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU) that represents eight trade unions in the State and the Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union to the move.

Based on a direction from the Centre that has asked States to simplify the Act and rules that govern the working hours, the Labour Department circulated a draft copy of the Bill to amend the Karnataka Shops and Establishments Act, 1961, seeking to increase daily working hours and also increase the cap on overtime work. IT and ITeS companies, offices, pubs, bars, restaurants, hotels, and malls, among many others that offer commercial services, come under the purview of the Act. Even as Labour Secretary Rohini Sindhuri on Wednesday met stakeholders where opinions in favour of and against the proposed amendment were received from employers' organisations and trade unions, Labour Minister Santosh Lad told *The Hindu* that there would be more consultation on the issue.

One more meeting

"The discussions started after Manoj Joshi (Secretary, Union Department of Land Resources) gave a presentation to the Chief Secretary to increase work hours to 10 hours and on ease of doing business," the Minister said. "We had called a meeting to elicit opinion on the proposal. We will also apply our minds. We will once again call the stakeholders' meeting."

Indicating that the matter could go to Cabinet, Mr. Lad said, "We will take a call after seeking concurrence of the Chief Minister and all Cabinet colleagues. No decision has been made yet. Any decision, which will be taken, will be helpful to the working class."

The changes in labour laws that have been moved by the Centre and implemented already in some BJP-governed States are being discussed in Karnataka. The State has also set up a task force following a meeting on 'Compliance reduction and deregulation' being pushed by the Centre, to implement suggestions.

Apart from suggesting an increase in daily work hours to 10 from the current nine hours, the proposed amendment to the Act seeks to allow an increase in daily overtime work from one hour to two hours, allow an increase in overtime hours in three continuous months from 50 hours to 144 hours.

Unions oppose

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union termed the proposal to facilitate 12 hours work a day (including two hours overtime) as "modern-day slavery". The union, whose representatives attended the meeting on Wednesday, said the amendment would allow the companies to go for a two-shift system instead of the existing three shifts.

The JCTU, in its memorandum, seeking an immediate withdrawal of the proposal, said, "After similar reforms in Gujarat, registered establishments showed a decline by 18%. Karnataka already has 32% graduate unemployment (AISHE 2023). Gender discrimination can increase since 78% of Karnataka's retail workforce is women and can create a hostile environment for working women." The economic fallout and employment crisis will aggravate and could lead to compression of workforce by about 30%, it feared, adding that it would increase unemployment among youth in Karnataka. "The proposal violates the State's own Labour Policy 2020 that guarantees eight-hour work culture," the memorandum stated.

In May, based on the Union government's directive, the State government had moved to change the shift hours under the Factories Act for workers. This move also received backlash from unions, following which the State government put the changes on the back burner.

Free treatment under Vay Vandana still elusive in State

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A file photo of the Government Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru. Of the total Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka beneficiaries, the State has around 15.12 lakh families with senior citizens as members.

Free treatment for senior citizens aged 70 and above, under the Ayushman Bharat Vay Vandana (ABVV) scheme, is still elusive in Karnataka. This is because the State's Finance Department has not agreed to the Centre's assurance that the modalities for release of grants for the scheme will be finalised soon.

Responding to the State's letter seeking adequate support to implement the Vay Vandana scheme, which is an extended part of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), the Centre has requested Karnataka to start providing the services and that the payment modalities for additional cost will be worked out soon.

Sharing ratio

Expressing the State's inability to start the Vay Vandana scheme without any clarity on the fund release, Karnataka's Principal Secretary (Health) Harsh Gupta had written to the Union Health Secretary pointing out that the State is entitled to get ₹36.58 crore from the Centre for the scheme as per the 60:40 sharing ratio of Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) scheme.

"Although the sharing ratio for the health scheme between the Centre and State should be 60:40, it is actually 25:75 as the State bears expenditure for around 1.12 crore families while the Centre is only funding the expenses of 69 lakh families as listed under the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data," he said in the letter.

Of the total AB-ArK beneficiaries, the State has around 15.12 lakh families with senior citizens as members. Of these, 9.22 lakh are SECC-identified families (tagged families), and the remaining are over and above the SECC-identified families (untagged families). "The Centre will provide the State with additional support at the rate of a mere ₹75.7 per family per annum for tagged families and ₹1,052 per family per annum for the untagged families. However, additional support to the untagged families will be provided only after the 69 lakh families out of 1.12 crore total families are tagged," the letter stated.

NHA's letter

In response to this, L.S. Changsan, Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Authority (NHA) that is the implementing agency for AB PM-JAY, said the additional premium for existing beneficiary families determined at ₹75.7 per family per annum covers the additional top-up wallet of ₹5 lakh, which is utilised only after the primary wallet of the family is exhausted. For new beneficiary families, the annual premium of ₹1,052 per family aligns with the existing premium structure under AB PM-JAY, the NHA CEO's letter stated.

However, Karnataka's Finance Department has not agreed to this. "In the absence of any definite mechanism to link the AB-ArK beneficiaries with the actual SECC data, as per the next best approximation worked out by the State Health Department, Karnataka will require a total of ₹68.98 crore per annum for the senior citizens scheme. As the Centre has to provide 60% of this amount to the State, Karnataka is entitled to get ₹36.58 crore from the Centre. We are now planning to place this issue before the State Cabinet," Mr. Gupta told *The Hindu*.

Bal Sahitya Puraskar for Kannada book

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sahitya Akademi on Wednesday announced its annual awards for 2025. In the Kannada category, K. Shivalingappa Handihal has won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for his collection of short stories *Notebook*.

The akademi, in a press release, stated that the award comprises a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque for ₹50,000. The award will be presented at a special ceremony later. The Bal Sahitya Puraskar recognises outstanding contributions to children's literature in various Indian languages.

Digitally integrate details of all properties, PAN, Aadhaar of a person with death certificate: High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that whenever any application is filed before the Registrar of Births and Deaths (RoBD) for death certificates of any person, the details of all the properties which are in the name of such person should be automatically fetched from the database of the sub-registrar's office and the Revenue Department, should be made available to the RoBD.

Even the records in hospitals regarding the births and deaths should also be integrated with the RoBD, the court said.

Identity details

The court also said that the identity details, like PAN, Aadhaar, electoral ID, and other identity cards that may be available, should also be made available and integrated with the database of the RoBD.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while dealing with a case of one Mahadevaiah of Tumakuru, who had obtained the death certificate of his mother several years after her demise by giving a false date of death – ten years prior to her actual death, even though she had died in 1985.

The court directed the Principal Secretaries of the departments of E-governance, Revenue, Urban Development, and Municipal Administration to come out with the plan within six weeks to integrate these details.

False memo

The court also found that Mahadevaiah had obtained an order from the Lok Adalat for the issuance of the death certificate in the absence of revenue authorities by presenting a false "joint memo" before the adalat, giving the impression that the revenue authorities had accepted his claim on the mother's death certificate.

On securing the death certificate, which stated that his mother had died in 1975, he had questioned the sale deed executed by her in 1979 in favour of one Siddalingaiah. The falsification of the year of death came to light during the litigation between Siddalingaiah and Mahadevaiah.

COVID death audit panel reconstituted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

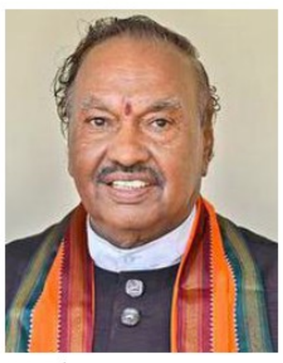
To analyse the causes and factors leading to COVID-19 deaths in Karnataka, the State government has reconstituted its COVID death audit committee. A Government Order on the new committee was issued on June 17.

The new committee, set up under the chairmanship of B.L. Shashibhushan, director of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Chest Diseases, has a member secretary and 14 members from the Health and Medical Education departments and various hospitals.

It will examine and analyse factors such as causes, symptoms, comorbidities, vaccination, number of days of hospitalisation, and delay in registration and reporting of COVID-19 deaths at the State level.

Will not return to BJP until party is 'purified', says KSE

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA



K.S. Eshwarappa

Former Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa has said he will not return to the BJP until the party is "purified".

"The BJP in the State has forgotten the ideology of Hindutva. Many BJP workers, disappointed with the recent developments in the party, are contacting me," he told journalists, after inducting many workers from different parties, including the BJP, to his forum – the Rashtra Bhakhtara Balaga – in Shivamogga on Wednesday.

Reiterate's charge

Mr. Eshwarappa said he had never thought of joining any party other than the BJP. However, he would not return to the party until the issues he raised were addressed. "The BJP in Karnataka has been taken over by one family. I am against to it," he reiterated.

Further, he clarified that he and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa were like brothers.

"We built the party together and started a business too. When I was not feeling well, he called me over the phone to enquire about my health. Similarly, I attended his grandson's wedding. However, such gestures have nothing to do with politics," he maintained.

The BJP expelled Mr. Eshwarappa in 2024 after he decided to contest for the Shivamogga Lok Sabha seat as an Independent candidate.

TAMILNADU HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

e-Tender Notice No. FPM1/6767/2024 Dt:18.06.2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Proposals are invited from eligible consultants by the Managing Director, TANHODA. 3rd floor, Agriculture Building Complex, Chepauk, Chennai-5, for the following work.

Sl. No	Description of work	Approximate Project Value (Rs. In Crores)
1	Request for Proposal for Providing consultancy services for Establishment of ECO Park at Guindy, Chennai on QCBS method	25.000

e-Tender Opening date: 07.07.2025. Other details are furnished in the Tender documents which can be downloaded from the website: **https://tntenders.gov.in** free of cost. The tender inviting authority reserves the right to cancel or postpone the tender without assigning any reasons there for.

DIPR/3132/TENDER/2025

MANAGING DIRECTOR, TANHODA

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

PADMA KRISHNASWAMI
W/o late C.S. Krishnaswami breathed her last at **Cupertino US on 17/06/25**
She will be sadly missed by sons Ravi and Suresh and daughters-in-law.
Ph: **4082429056.** Email: **ksuresh@alumni.stanford.edu**

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
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Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

IN THE COURT OF THE VI ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU
P & SC No. 296/2025 (CCH-11)
BETWEEN : Sri. K. Vijay Kumar, S/o K.K. Pillai, Aged about 69 years, R/at No.211, Opposite Regent Palace, Thobarahalli, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560 066. ...PETITIONER
AND : NIL ...RESPONDENT
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the above-named petitioner has made a petition to this Court U/s 276 of the Indian Succession act 1925, praying for issue of Probate of the Will executed on 06.01.2012 by Late T. Madhaviamma in favour of the Petitioner i.e., the son of Late T. Madhaviamma, she died on 04.01.2015 in respect of the schedule property.
Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear in this court in person or by pleader duly instructed **on the 30th day of July 2025, at 11 O'clock in forenoon** to show cause against to petition, failing wherein the matter will be heard and determined ex-parte.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the land bearing new Sy.No.31/1A Old Sy.No.31/1 measuring 0.26 guntas situated at Thubarahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, bounded on :
East by : Property belonging to Kuttappa, **West by :** Property belonging to Kunjamma Daniel, **North by :** Varthur Main Road, **South by:** Property belonging to Narayanappa.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this the 17th day of June 2025.
By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for the Petitioner
V.N. SHANKAREGOWDA, Advocate
No. 22/23, # 202, 2nd Floor, Jala Shambhavi Complex, 1st Main Road, Opp. Indian Overseas Bank, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009.
Ph. 9902533233
vnshankaregowda1070@gmail.com

भारतीय खाद्य निगम FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
Regional Office:# 10, East End Main Road, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560041
No.RO KA-32.0011.0/13/2025-CON-RO KA
Date: 16.06.2025
ई-निविदा सूचना / e-Tender Notice
जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत, दो वर्ष के लिए ऑनलाइन नियमित निविदा **1)** एफएसडी बल्लारी में दो साल के लिए नियमित एचटीसी के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया है। बोली **27.06.2025** को दोपहर 2.00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन जमा की जानी है। एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर उपलब्ध हैं। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।
Online Tenders for regular HTC at FSD Ballari for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 27.06.2025.**
NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in"**. For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**
महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (KARNATAKA)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/5054/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಸ–1/2025–26/451 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.06.2025
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ "ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ " ಮೂಲಕ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW-4ರ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಇವರು "ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕುಮೆಂಟ್ಸಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ /ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.06.2025 ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ **2) ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ (Pre Bid Meeting):** 23.06.2025 ಸಮಯ: ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ಲಾರಿಫೀಕೆಶನ್ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 27.06.2025 ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ : 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ **4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**27.06.2025 ಸಮಯ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ **5) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರೀಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 30.06.2025 ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 04.07.2025 ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.
2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 5054 ಮಳೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು:1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಉಕ್ಕಿನಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಜೇವರ್ಗಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಯಡ್ರಾಮಿ ತಾಲೂಕು ಬಾರ್ಡರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT 13541/CALL-2. **ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 180.00. **ಮುಂಗಡ ತೇವಣಿ ಹಣ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 2,26,140/–. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ):** 09 Months. **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** Class-III & Above. **2) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು:** ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮೂಡಬೂಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಹೋತಪೇಠ ಗ್ರಾಮದವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_ INDENT13545/CALL-2 **ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 180.00. **ಮುಂಗಡ ತೇವಣಿ ಹಣ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 2,26,140/–. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ):** 09 Months **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** Class-III & Above **3) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು:** ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಬೆನಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕ್ರಾಸದಿಂದ ಶಹಾಪೂರ–ಕನ್ಯಕೊಳೂರು ಅಗಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಕ್ಸ್ ಕಲ್ವರ್ಟ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** RDPR/2024-25/BG/WORK_INDENT13530/CALL-2. **ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 125.00. **ಮುಂಗಡ ತೇವಣಿ ಹಣ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 2,00,000/–. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ):**09 Months **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** Class-III & Above. **4) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು:** ಶಹಾಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಗೋಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಶ್ರೀ ಹಾದಿ ಹನುಮಪ್ಪ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:**RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13543/CALL-2 **ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 120.00. **ಮುಂಗಡ ತೇವಣಿ ಹಣ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 2,00,000/–. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ):** 09 Months **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** Class-III & Above **5) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು:** ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮಾಲಹಳ್ಳಿ– ಕೆಂಭಾವಿ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಯಡಿಯಾಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT13876/CALL-2 **ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 120.00. **ಮುಂಗಡ ತೇವಣಿ ಹಣ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):** 2,00,000/–. **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ):** 09 Months **ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** Class-III & Above.
ಸೂಚನೆ :– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ)
ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/109/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.ಎ/2025–26 **ಯಾದಗಿರ.**

INBRIEF

Tomato price crash forces farmers to dump produce

A sharp crash in tomato prices has left farmers in and around Mysuru distraught, forcing many to dump the produce on roadsides and at the APMC Yard, on Wednesday. Though there was movement of tomatoes by way of bulk purchase for some time, the prices fluctuated and began to hover around ₹12 to ₹15 per kg.

Ex-MLA Kakasaheb Patil dead

The former Congress MLA Kakasaheb Patil died in Belagavi on Wednesday. He passed away after a brief illness. He was 70. He was admitted to the KLE Dr Prabhakar Kore Hospital.

His wife died a few years ago. He is survived by a son and a daughter and some family members.

He was a Congress MLA from Nippani in 1999, 2004 and 2008. But he lost the next Assembly elections.

The Maratha leader was considered a follower of the former Union Minister Sharad Pawar.

Woman tied to tree over loan gets 50 cents of land

The Andhra Pradesh government will grant 50 cents of land to the woman who was tied to a tree and beaten allegedly by a moneylender in Kuppam over her inability to repay a loan taken by her husband. Senior officials met the victim, Sirisha, and gave a cheque for ₹5 lakh sanctioned by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. One of her children will be admitted to a Gurukul school, an official said. Her husband had borrowed ₹80,000 from the moneylender, and left the village as dues mounted, the police said.

A.P.'s water diversion project will affects us, says Telangana

Telangana Minister says A.P. cannot stake claim to surplus water of Godavari as it belongs to all the coterminous States; convenes meet of MPs from all political parties to oppose A.P.'s proposal

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Taking strong objections to the Banakacharla-Polavaram project proposed by the Andhra Pradesh government, the Telangana government has said the project of the neighbouring State is in gross violation of existing norms and will adversely affect the interests of the State.

Telangana said the neighbouring State cannot stake claim on the surplus water unilaterally as the flood water of the river Godavari belonged to all the coterminous States. "The project being taken up at a time when Telangana's legitimate water rights are yet to be established is tantamount to infringing upon our rights," Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

Tough talk: Telangana CM Revanth Reddy addressing media after all-party MPs' meet in Hyderabad on Wednesday. SIDDHANT THAKUR

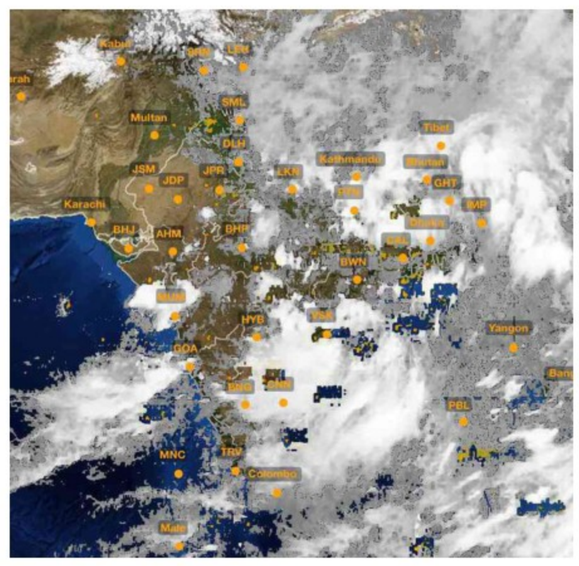
Mr. Uttam Kumar Reddy convened a meeting of MPs from all political parties to explain them about the "harmful effects" of the Polavaram-Banakacharla project on Telangana and take their suggestions on the "way forward" on the issue.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was present in the meeting which was attended by D.K. Aruna and M. Raghunandan Rao of BJP, Asaduddin Owaisi of AIMIM and V. Ravichandra of BRS in addition to several MPs of Congress.

Mr. Revanth expressed concern that A.P. has planned to utilise over 300 tmc ft water additionally in the name of the proposed project. "While the pre-feasibility report submitted by the A.P. government says it plans to draw 2 tmc ft a day, it is constructing civil works enabling it to draw more than 300 tmc ft," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa and Kerala. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	21	30.2	25.8	Kozhikode	62	30.0	23.5
Ahmedabad	16	32.9	26.2	Kurnool	—	36.2	25.2
Aizawl	—	25.0	23.1	Lucknow	—	36.4	26.8
Allahabad	4	35.4	27.0	Madurai	—	38.8	27.1
Bengaluru	1	29.3	20.4	Mangaluru	37.9	29.5	23.6
Bhopal	—	33.0	24.8	Mumbai	29	30.1	26.1
Bhubaneswar	0.5	28.7	25.6	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.0
Chandigarh	2	36.1	25.9	New Delhi	29	34.2	24.2
Chennai	—	38.8	28.3	Patna	1.2	36.0	28.7
Coimbatore	0.4	30.6	22.2	Port Blair	22	28.8	24.5
Dehradun	1	32.5	24.6	Puducherry	—	37.1	26.6
Gangtok	28	21.3	18.4	Pune	5.6	30.2	25.0
Goa	14	31.5	25.9	Raipur	—	32.6	27.0
Guwahati	1	33.6	26.8	Ranchi	128	25.0	22.8
Hubballi	—	30.0	22.0	Shillong	3	23.2	18.0
Hyderabad	—	34.4	24.2	Shimla	5	26.8	19.5
Imphal	0.6	29.0	25.4	Srinagar	—	32.5	16.3
Jaipur	38	32.8	25.1	Thiruvananthapuram	4	31.8	24.2
Kochi	33	29.2	24.2	Tiruchi	—	37.3	27.0
Kohima	5	27.2	19.4	Vijayawada	—	37.4	27.0
Kolkata	8	28.0	26.4	Visakhapatnam	—	32.6	29.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.22	..31	61	 43	54	.....
Bengaluru	.11	4	18	 58	...215	.....
Chennai	...4	6	30	 36	...113	.....
Delhi	...6	..55	48	... 125	...106	.....
Hyderabad	.22	..15	37	 73	89	.....
Kolkata	.43	..60	30	 20	24	.....
Lucknow	.11	..31	66	 58	...126	.....
Mumbai	.60	..16	48	 25	61	.....
Pune	.12	..—	19	 51	56	.....
Visakhapatnam	.21	..81	49	 65	...134	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jalore, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 354 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 7

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SC issues notice on journalist's bail plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Kerala government on a plea for pre-arrest bail filed by journalist Nandakumar T.P., who was booked by the police for allegedly publishing a defamatory video against a prominent woman politician on his YouTube channel *Crime Online*.

A Vacation Bench headed by Justice Sandeep Mehta sought a response from the State and the station house officer of the police station.

The State Police had alleged that the video contained derogatory, sexually coloured, and threatening remarks aimed at tarnishing the reputation of the woman leader.

The Kerala High Court on June 9 declined to grant Mr. Nandakumar anticipatory bail.

HC orders conditional arrest of *MSC Polo 2*

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday ordered the conditional arrest of Liberian-flag ship *MSC Polo 2* anchored in the Vizhinjam international seaport in connection with the sinking of container ship *MSC Elsa 3* off the Kerala coast on May 25 on an admiralty suit filed by a cashew importer firm whose consignment was on board the sunken ship.

The order came on a petition seeking compensation of ₹73.49 lakh from Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) for the loss of the consignment, filed by Praveena V.P., managing director of Kollam-based Sans Cashew India Private Limited.

Later in the day, MSC handed over a demand draft for the amount before the Registrar of the High Court.

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION, KARNATAKA
No. 16, 2nd and 3rd floor, Ballari Road, Sadashiva Nagara, Bengaluru-560080
Tele No: 080-22205189/ 193, Email: karsec@gmail.com
No.: SECK/ADMN/ETND/1/2025-RLB Date: 18.06.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
An e-tender has been invited through the KPP portal (Tender No.KSEC/2025-26/SE0002/CALL-3) for the services related to preparation, printing of Electoral Roll and other printing works from the office of the Karnataka State Election Commission. The tender can be submitted through the e-portal by **dated: 25.06.2025 time 4:30 pm**. Details related to the tender can be obtained from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in** or the above office can be contacted during office hours.
Sd/- Under Secretary,
State Election Commission, Karnataka.
DIPR/CP/JA/1304/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PRINTING, STATIONERY AND PUBLICATIONS
Government Central Press, 8th Mile, Mysore Road,
R.V. College Post, Bengaluru -560 059. **Ph :** 080 28484515 / 28484518
No. DPS/PURB/TDRC/02/2025-PUR/Copier & Azurelaid (JK Brand)
Dated:- 18-06-2025
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement)
Online Tenders are invited for the Supply of Copier & Azurelaid Paper (JK Brand) Under rate contract. Estimated total value of the Tender is about **Rs. 76.65 lakhs** & total EMD prescribed is **Rs:3.84 Lakhs.** Last date for Submission of Tender on **05-07-2025, 17.30 hrs.** For details please visit Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For any further clarifications the above office may be contacted.
Sd/-
Director (I/c)
DIPR/CP/1325/Zen/2025-26

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited
No.148, Embassy Square, Ground Floor, Infantry Road, Bangalore - 560001, CIN No: U41000KA2016SGC097260
Ph: 080-22256688/22289966 Fax: 080-22264477
Email: mail@vjnl.in, Website: www.vjnl.in
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri, Tumkur Dist-572132
Ph: 08137-282112 Email-eeyetmadhugiri@gmail.com
NO: V.J.N.L/YP/E.E/D.4/Madhugiri/TND/Quotation/2025-26/01 Dt: 21.05.2025
QUOTATIONS INVITING RATES FOR NON SR ITEMS
A sealed quotations for items listed and published in **https://vjnl.karnataka.gov.in/23/quotations/en** (VJNL official website) which are considered preparation of estimate **"Construction of RCC Box for National Highway Crossing (LHS Ch: 40+395 Km, RHS Ch:40+425Km) by Box Pushing Technique at Ch:26+895Km"** and **"Construction of RCC Box for National Highway Crossing(Ch.35+705) by Box Pushing Technique at Ch:40+762 Km"** coming under TG-Halli Ramanagara are invited by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri, to reach on or before **25.06.2025** during office hour's from eligible contractor.
Note: rates should be exclusive of GST
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/TUM/RO-45/25-26/Oysters VJNL, YHP, Division No.4, Madhugiri

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com
No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2025-26/2045
Dated: 17.06.2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal district invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-2 and KW-4 on KPP portal for 04 no. of tender works pertaining to Raichur district. The Approximate amount for the mentioned works Ranges between Rs.45.00 Lakhs to 500.00 Lakhs. **Two cover** tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.
For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **20-06-2025**. Last date & time for receipt of tender is **30-06-2025** time 17.30 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on **25-06-2025**, 11.00 Hours at division office koppal, Date & time for opening of technical bid **02-07-2025** time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid **04-07-2025** time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).
Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/164/KSMCA/2025-26

MBM UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR
No. : MBMU/OIC/2025-26/413 Date :- 16/06/2025
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids are invited from interested eligible and experienced vendors/suppliers for the supply/provision of the following items/services at MBM University, Jodhpur. All other particulars of the bid may be visited on the portal **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.mbm.ac.in.**
1. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SBLOB00014 for Trunkey base work for Second Convocation Event in MBM University, Jodhpur MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹16.50 lakh and last date of bid submission 08.07.2025 12:00 Noon
2. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526WSOB00015 for Printing and publication work for second convocation event in MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹4.50 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 28.06.2025 12:00 Noon.
3. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GSOB00016 for Laboratory Equipment's for Centre of Excellence for Non-Conventional Energy – II at M B M University, Jodhpur. with estimated amount 10.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 28.06.2025, 12:00 Noon.
4. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SSOB00017 for Deployment of Technical Manpower for Annual Maintenance of Local Area Network & IT Infrastructure at M B M University, Jodhpur. with estimated amount 07.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 28.06.2025 12:00 Noon.
5. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526GSOB00018 for High Performance Computer Systems for Department of Architecture & Town Planning" (UNDER PM-USHA) at M B M University, Jodhpur. with estimated amount 08.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 28.06.2025 12:00 Noon.
OIC-Central Store
MBM University
Raj.Samwad/C/25/4521

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Traffic Commercial Department, 2nd Floor, Shantinagar TTMC, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027.
No.: BMTC/CO/TR/COM1856/1264/2025-26 Date: 18.06.2025
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No-13/2025-26
(Through e-Procurement Platform)
Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites bids from the interested Persons/Agency for **Maintenance of Parking in Kengeri Satellite Bus Stand and Prestige St. John Wood Apartment Flat E-506** through e-procurement platform.

Last date & time for submission of bids	**25.06.2025 up to 17:00 hrs.**
Date for opening the Technical bids	**26.06.2025 at 17.05 hrs.**
Opening of Financial bids	**To be Intimated later**

For further details on license fees, EMD, Area & other conditions log on to: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Contact no: 09240214000, 09240214001, 080-22483777 or 7760997519, 7760991222 & 7760991026. E-mail: **ctmc@mybmtc.com.**
Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com) (Tender inviting Authority)

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com
No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/02/2025-26/435 Date: 17.06.2025
PUBLIC NOTICE
[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]
M/S. AHAD BUILDERS PVT. LTD, Represented by Mr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Managing Director, Mr. FAUZAAN AHAD, Managing Partner AFA Group, AFA Group and Mr. Nayaz Ahmed have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture" Zone to "Residential"** purpose pertaining Sy.No.98/17 Extent of 0Acre-13Guntas, Sy.No. 99/8 Extent of 01Acre-18Guntas, Sy.No.100/2 Extent of 0Acre-13.04Guntas (Including 0A-0.12G 'A' Kharab), Sy.No.100/3 Extent of 0Acre-13.04Guntas (Including 0A-0.12G 'A' Kharab), Sy.No.100/5 Extent of 0Acre-13.04Guntas (Including 0A-0.12G 'A' Kharab), Sy.No.100/6 Extent of 0Acre-12Guntas (Including 0A-0.08G 'A' Kharab), Sy.No.102/2 Extent of 0Acre-15Guntas, Sy.No.102/5 Extent of 0Acre-25Guntas, Sy.No.102/7 Extent of 0Acre-11Guntas, Sy.No.102/8 Extent of 01Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No.102/11 Extent of 0Acre-28Guntas, Sy.No.102/14 Extent of 01Acre-02Guntas (Including 0A-02G 'A' Kharab), **Total Extent of 07Acre-07.12Guntas of Hampapura Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant have stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;
1) If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable Rate to middle income groups and economically weaker sections.
2) At the time of carving and designing the layout, there will be job opportunities for labours.
3) If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
4) If the planned development take place, good road, civic amenities sites and park etc., will be available for general public.
Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after stipulated time will not be considered.
Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/JA/1309/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(APCC&Proc)/EEP/AEE2/2025-26/684-690 Date: 18.06.2025
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (RE-TENDER)
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode against the following Tender Enquiry No. as detailed below:

Tender Enquiry Number and Description
Tender Enquiry No: **KPTCL/2025-26/IND0188.**
Design, Manufacture, Testing and supply of **409Nos. of 110kV class Current Transformers along with 121Nos. of Marshalling Box** conforming to KPTCL technical specification, F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.

The bids will be received through e-procurement portal only. The details regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **20.06.2025 @ 15:00hrs** and the last date & time for receipt of bids in e-portal is **21.07.2025 @ 15:00hrs.**
Any extensions of due date for bid submission will be intimated in the e-procurement portal. Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. All Corrigendum / Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.
Sd/-, Chief General Manager (Tech),
KPTCL, Corporate Office, 2nd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru – 560 009.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director (Education)
N.R Circle, Bangalore-02.
ಸಂ. ಪಿ.ಸ.ನಿ.(ಶಿ)/ಪಿ.ಆರ್/240/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18.06.2025
Notification for Price list
Sub: Regarding obtaining current market price list for purchasing furniture (Desks) to seat students studying in the Palike's Shishu Vihar schools for the year 2025-26.
Ref: E-Office Number of the Hon'ble Special Commissioner (South) 139052, Date of Approval **07.06.2025.**
With reference to the above subject and reference, price list have been invited at the current market rates and specifications for the purchase of furniture (desks) from the reputed vendors/shop-keepers to seat students studying in the Palike's Shishu Vihar schools for the year 2025-26.
1. It has been instructed to obtain the required number of furniture (desks) for students studying in the Palike's Shishu Vihar schools from the Education Department by **19.06.2025.**
2. The prices of furniture (desks) supplied to students studying in the Palike's Shishu Vihar schools must include GST.
3. The last date for submission of sealed price list is **20.06.2025**
4. The price list will be opened on **21.06.2025 at 10.00 AM.** Interested parties can participate.
For more details contact the phone No. : 9741894512
Sd/- Senior Assistant Director, (Education), BBMP.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
Jalabhavana, 5th Floor, No.5, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM layout, Bannerughatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029
Ph : 080 - 4110 6508
e-mail:cekwbbng@gmail.com Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Electronic Procurement Portal only)
No: KWB/TEC/CE(B)/SMG/Filter Media/397/2025-26
Dated: 18.06.2025
Name of the Work: Replacement of filter media with new filter media (V-wire system) to existing 84MLD capacity WTP and replacement of existing Flocculator motors of Clarifloculator in WTP at KRWW, Mandli in Shivamogga city under DC works of SCC
Indent No.: KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/Work_Indent351
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Electronic Procurement Portal only)
No: KWB/TEC/CE(B)/BDVT/Jackwell/396/2025-26
Dated: 18.06.2025
Name of the Work: Construction of Jackwell cum Pump house at old town for improvements of water supply scheme to Bhadravathi town with Badra River as source under DC work of Bhadravathi City Municipal Council.
Indent No.: KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/Work_Indent350
For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website:
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Engineer (B),
KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1317/CCL/2025-26

Failed summit

India must reassess the usefulness of attending G-7 meetings

At 50, the G-7 – a grouping of the most advanced economies – should appear robust, cohesive and experienced in managing global conflict. Instead, the G-7 Summit and Outreach session in Kananaskis, Canada presented a disunited and ineffective force in the face of some of the most testing conflicts including an escalating Russia-Ukraine war, the Israel-Iran strife and Israel's ceaseless bombardment of Gaza. In addition, it has been unable to deal with the biggest disruptor in global trade – that of the U.S. Trump administration's reciprocal tariffs worldwide. This year's G-7 was rocky from the start as host Canada saw an unexpected election just months before the summit. The government of Mark Carney was still finding its feet, which meant leaders such as Prime Minister Modi were invited just days before the summit. Upheavals in U.S. foreign and trade policy have also caught the grouping off-guard: U.S. President Donald Trump's pivot to Russia on the Ukraine crisis, and ambiguous approach to China have been particularly noted. In Kananaskis Mr. Trump even suggested that the G-7 become the "G9, including Russia and China", much to the chagrin of other leaders, including the Ukraine President, who was a special invitee. Mr. Trump's volte face from proclaiming to be a "Peace-time President" to actively supporting Israel's aggression was another issue. The U.S. refused to sign on to a draft statement by G-7 members that called for a de-escalation or any criticism of Israel, and pushed for a statement that condemned Iran. Mr. Trump's early exit dealt another blow. Eventually, the G-7 was unable to issue a joint statement on key issues, and a Chair's Summary was issued to deal with the crises at hand, along with statements on less divisive issues such as AI and quantum computing, critical minerals supply chains, wildfire and prevention, and transnational repression, but not on terrorism, as India had hoped.

Perhaps the most productive part of Mr. Modi's trip was his meeting with Mr. Carney, and the decisions to restore Indian and Canadian High Commissioners, and to reset ties ruptured over the Nijjar case. However, the Carney government has not demonstrated any change in its position on the case or on action against Khalistani extremism. Moreover, the G-7 statement on Transnational Repression (TNR) does not name any country, but is pointed in its reference to allegations of foreign interference and TNR made by Canada against India, as well as China, Russia and Iran. Given the outcomes, the government must review the utility of India's participation in the G-7 process. To have the Prime Minister travel more than 11,000 kilometres to address one outreach session of a fractious summit may not be the most optimal use of India's resources.

A fair share

Retaining the 41% share in the divisible pool for States will be unjust

The Sixteenth Finance Commission (SFC), whose recommendations on financial devolution will be valid from April 1, 2026, faces a piquant situation. Its chairman Arvind Panagariya had noted last week that 22 out of 28 States, including many ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had asked for a larger share of the divisible pool of tax collections, from 41% to 50% – a legitimate demand. The Union government has effectively shrunk the divisible pool by disproportionately increasing its revenue through non-shareable cesses and surcharges, whose share of the Centre's gross tax revenue soared from 12.8% between 2015-16 to 2019-20 (pre-pandemic years) to 18.5% between 2020-21 and 2023-24 (Budget expenditure). Thus, the effective share of States in the Centre's gross tax revenues averaged close to 31% in the 2020-21 to 2023-24 period – it was 35% in the previous corresponding period. Compounding this is the post-GST reality, where limited avenues for States to raise their revenue, make them critically dependent on central transfers. While GST collections have been fairly good in recent years, this has still not addressed the issue of the reduced avenues for States to increase their revenue. Further, the existing formula for horizontal devolution, with a heavy weightage given to population and income distance, is seen by economically progressive States (the South), as a penalty for performance and responsible governance.

Keeping the status quo would go against the grain and the idea of cooperative federalism that the BJP-led government has emphasised. Mr. Panagariya also remarked that a sudden nine-point jump to 50% would "[upset] too many carts", indicating that the Centre would be loath to lessen its share because of rising expenditure on defence and other capital-intensive projects. This means that the Finance Commission would be less inclined to engage with States' demands, also explaining why it might keep the devolution share unchanged at 41%. Yet, doing so would be a missed opportunity to forge a new federal compact. A modest increase in the vertical devolution, meeting States' demands half-way, would be a welcome signal. The Finance Commission must also recommend a mechanism that will rein in the arbitrary use of cesses and surcharges, maybe even capping them at a fixed percentage of the gross tax revenue of the Centre and including any surplus collection in the divisible pool, as some have suggested. It must fine-tune the horizontal distribution criteria to create a more equitable balance between a State's needs, its area, and its performance. Crafting a formula that is fiscally prudent and one that strengthens the federal structure at its roots, the States, is imperative.

Resetting the India-U.S. partnership in uncertain times

Amitabh Mattoo

is Professor and Dean, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has served on India's National Security Council Advisory Board

Just a few months ago, India and the United States appeared poised to deepen what had been described as the defining partnership of the 21st century. Prime Minister Modi had met President Donald Trump early in his second term. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was present at the inauguration. There was bipartisan goodwill in Washington and strategic optimism in New Delhi. The relationship seemed to rest not on convenience, but on a grander wager: shared democratic values, converging geopolitical interests, and a mutual ambition to shape the emerging world order.

A drift that is serious

Today, however, there is growing unease in New Delhi. Not a rupture, but a perceptible drift; subtle yet serious. A series of tactical and rhetorical signals from Washington suggest a partnership at risk of being undermined by volatility, policy incoherence, and a disconcerting return to older habits of mind. The sense of strategic convergence is dimming. In this context, Mr. Trump's decision to host a lunch on June 18 for Field Marshal Asim Munir, the chief architect of Pakistan's praetorian politics and sectarian rhetoric, has sent a disquieting signal to India, not least because it blurs the line between counter-terrorism partnership and political expediency.

This drift, however, is not irreversible. The structural logic of the partnership remains robust. What is required now is a reset, not of fundamentals, but of tone, clarity, and mutual commitment.

Several recent developments have triggered India's discomfort. Perhaps most jarring has been the return of outdated "hyphenation": treating India and Pakistan as equivalent strategic concerns. In the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, Mr. Trump spoke of India and Pakistan in the same breath, offered mediation on Kashmir, and warned of nuclear escalation. For Indian policymakers who have invested years in decoupling India's rise from the India-Pakistan binary, such language was diplomatically regressive.

On the economic front, signals have been equally disconcerting. Even as Mr. Trump announced that "our deal with China is done", he reportedly discouraged Apple's CEO from expanding manufacturing in India; warning that companies that "go to India" may face difficulties in accessing the U.S. market. For Indian officials advancing a "China-plus-one" strategy and projecting India as a manufacturing hub, the message was undermining.

Immigration policy, too, has become a point of friction. The H-1B visa regime, long a cornerstone of India-U.S. technological cooperation, now appears vulnerable to political posturing and protectionist rhetoric. The consequences risk fraying the connective tissue that binds Silicon Valley to Indian innovation ecosystems.

Most concerning is the apparent warming in Washington's approach toward Pakistan. When the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander, General Michael Kurilla, described Pakistan as a "phenomenal partner" in counterterrorism, it represented an extraordinary characterisation of an institution long associated with nurturing cross-border terrorism.

> While the structural logic of the partnership remains robust, what is needed is a reset that is marked by clarity and mutual commitment

Why is this drift occurring? First, the Trump administration's transactional approach places short-term gain over long-term alignment. India's strategic culture – patient, layered, and civilisational – sits uncomfortably with Washington's preference for the quick deal. The American impulse to monetise diplomacy can often jar with India's more strategic-based lens on geopolitics. In addition, Mr. Trump's diplomatic style remains as intriguing as ever: part showman, part salesman, and unpredictable. He may dazzle one moment and denounce the next, making it difficult for partners, even the closest, to navigate the terrain of trust and expectation.

Second, a segment of the U.S. national security establishment continues to view Pakistan as a familiar, if flawed, partner, especially in the context of Afghanistan and counterterrorism. Despite a history of duplicity, there remains a deep-seated nostalgia for the "known devil", whose strategic utility, however diminished, is still overstated. Meanwhile, India's strategic autonomy is often misconstrued as fence-sitting rather than a principled assertion of sovereignty.

Third, structural asymmetries in influence and communication persist. India's rise is real, but its institutional footprint in Washington lags behind its ambitions.

This is reflected in a troubling misunderstanding of India's strategic intentions. Critics such as Ashley Tellis argue that India suffers from "great-power delusions" and that the relationship falters because India's ambitions outstrip its capabilities. This diagnosis is flawed. India does not suffer from delusions of grandeur; it suffers from the patient weight of becoming. Its desire to chart an independent course reflects not confusion but strategic clarity shaped by history and sovereignty. The real risk lies not in India's aspirations but in Washington's impatience with partners who do not mirror American methods or priorities.

India must take the lead

What then must be done? Both countries must act decisively to prevent further drift.

India should not overreact. Tactical irritants must not obscure deeper strategic alignment. Defence cooperation, Quad initiatives, intelligence sharing, and convergent interests from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific remain strong foundations. But dramatic responses will only exacerbate misunderstanding. Quiet, persistent, and calibrated diplomacy must remain the preferred method. India should broaden and deepen its engagement in Washington beyond traditional diplomacy, leveraging Congress, policy think tanks, and Indian American diaspora as vectors of strategic advocacy.

Domestically, India must accelerate internal economic reforms, not to satisfy any foreign expectations but to reinforce the logic of investment, manufacturing, and long-term confidence. Regulatory clarity and infrastructure modernisation remain the best arguments for India as a global production hub. On the trade front, officials on both sides are cautiously exploring a modest but meaningful bilateral arrangement before the July 9 deadline.

Immigration concerns must be reframed as shared opportunities. The H-1B regime is not a concession to India, but an instrument of mutual innovation. The movement of skilled talent, the collaborative ecosystems of tech entrepreneurship, and the potential for co-creating the next generation of frontier technologies should be at the centre of the India-U.S. conversation.

The need to rediscover the basis of ties

For the U.S., the burden is equally significant. Washington must abandon Cold War framings and recognise that treating Indian manufacturing and talent mobility as threats is self-defeating. If the Indo-Pacific strategy is to endure, it must be matched by concrete investments in India's regional capacity-building initiatives.

More fundamentally, both countries must rediscover the moral purpose of their partnership. This is not merely about balancing China or accessing markets. At its best, the India-U.S. relationship is about shaping a democratic, pluralist, and rules-based world order. The arc of India-U.S. relations has never been linear. In 1998, after the Pokhran tests, who could have imagined the level of alignment achieved just a decade later? By 2005, the two countries had stunned the world with the landmark civil nuclear agreement: an audacious act of strategic trust that rewrote the rules of global diplomacy.

That moment reminds us of what is possible when political courage meets mutual respect. As U.S. President Bush once said, "The world will see what two great democracies can do when they trust each other." It is precisely that spirit we must summon again today. As this writer wrote in the introduction to *Engaged Democracies* (co-edited, more than two decades ago), the "real test of the partnership is not how it behaves in moments of celebration, but how it endures in times of stress".

The question then is not, as Walter Russell Mead provocatively asked recently, will Trump lose India? The better question is: will both countries squander a generational opportunity to build a democratic concert in Asia? The answer must be no. This turbulence should serve not as an epitaph, but as a summons to renewal. If clarity, commitment, and candour return to the conversation, the arc of the India-U.S. relationship can still bend – not just toward engagement, but toward enduring partnership and, perhaps once again, toward history-making trust.

The legality of Israeli actions under international law

Prabhash Ranjan

is Professor and Vice Dean (Research) at the Jindal Global Law School

While many nations may demur from taking a clear position on the legality of Israel's unparalleled military strikes against Iran for a multitude of reasons, an inescapable question confronting the global community is whether these strikes are legal under international law. It is axiomatic to state that Article 2(4) of the UN Charter prohibits the use of force in international relations, allowing narrow exceptions such as self-defence under Article 51, which permits a state to use force "if an armed attack occurs", adhering to necessity and proportionality. According to international lawyer Marko Milanovic, the legality of a country's use of force hinges on the legal conception of self-defence. If self-defence is limited to repelling armed attacks, Israel's current use of force is illegal, as there was no armed attack from Iran or non-state actors whose actions were attributable to Iran. Consequently, as per this interpretation, Israel's use of force is illegal and would amount to aggression, which is a war crime under international law.

Pre-emptive self-defence

What about the contention that Israel's military actions against Israel can be justified under pre-emptive self-defence, i.e., the right of the states to use force against an 'armed attack' that is yet to occur? The argument is that Iran is close to acquiring the capability to develop nuclear weapons, and once it receives the said capability, it will destroy Israel, as its leaders have vowed. Indeed, Israel justifies its war against Iran by claiming that its actions are pre-emptive self-defence against Iran's nuclear programme.

Pre-emptive self-defence in international law is contentious because arguing for the use of force against an anticipated armed attack contradicts Article 51. On the other hand, international lawyers such as Rosalyn Higgins argue that requiring a state to wait for an armed attack to occur before it can defend itself would be impractical.

> Grave violations by regimes must be called out as international law still remains the primary framework for determining the legitimacy of state conduct

Notwithstanding the disputable nature of pre-emptive self-defence, for the sake of argument, let us assume that such a right exists. The question, then, is how to define it, keeping in mind that an overtly broad articulation of such a right would violate not only the letter but also the spirit of the UN Charter. Arguably, a country has a right to pre-emptive self-defence if an armed attack has not occurred but is imminent. A better phrase for this is anticipatory self-defence. Support for this proposition is often drawn from the famous Caroline incident of 1837. This incident involved a pre-emptive strike by British forces in Canada against the American ship, Caroline. This ship was used by Americans who empathised with the rebels fighting British rule in Canada to ferry arms to the rebels. Over the years, this incident led to the emergence of what is known as the Caroline doctrine for the use of force. As in this doctrine, a state claiming pre-emptive self-defence would have to show that the necessity of self-defence was "instant", "overwhelming", "leaving no choice of means, and no moment of deliberation". Further, the force used should be proportionate. In simpler terms, a valid use of force as part of pre-emptive (or anticipatory) self-defence would require an armed attack that is imminent.

Meaning of imminence

However, there is no consensus on the meaning of 'imminent'. As Milanovic argues, the first meaning of 'imminent' is a restrictive one that has a temporal dimension. In other words, an 'imminent' attack means one that is temporally proximate, i.e., about to happen. The second meaning is expansive, where an attack may occur at some point in the future. Allowing a state to use pre-emptive self-defence, relying on the expansive meaning of imminent, would imply giving a licence to powerful states to act unilaterally merely based on conjecture. It would be an open invitation to armed aggression, which would surely defeat the very objective of forbidding the use of force under the UN Charter. Moreover, this broad meaning would also not be consistent with the Caroline doctrine, which amply limits the use of pre-emptive self-defence through qualifiers such as 'instant', 'overwhelming', and 'leaving no room for deliberation'. In short, there is abundant support for a narrower interpretation of 'imminent'.

Applying this legal understanding to Israel's use of force, it is clear that for Israel to make a credible case for pre-emptive self-defence, it must demonstrate that an attack from Iran was imminent, meaning an attack was about to occur. The argument that Israel acted in pre-emptive self-defence because Iran is closer to acquiring nuclear weapons, which could pose an existential threat to Israel, relies on a broader interpretation of "imminent", which is not supported by international law.

It is the primary framework

Cynics might argue that this debate is futile in a world where there is scant respect for international law. After all, international law has failed abjectly to stop wars despite the adoption of the UN Charter eight decades ago. However, international law remains the primary framework for determining the legitimacy of state conduct. It is the only means by which state power can be held accountable internationally. Thus, it is essential to invoke and marshal international law in the teeth of its gravest violations by regimes that believe they can act with impunity.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dialogue over conflict

It is shocking and distressing that the conflict between Israel and Iran is widening. If the United States gets involved in it, the possibility of a wider war would be inevitable. Iran should give up its ambition of becoming a nuclear power and Israel must respect the sovereignty of Iran. It is only through diplomacy and dialogue that conflict can be resolved. Not through guns and fire.

Balagopal Gopinath,
Keerikkad, Alappuzha, Kerala

Incident in Australia

The bizarre treatment meted out to Gaurav Kundi, a resident of Adelaide (Inside pages, June 16), is an example of barbaric measures undertaken by a law-enforcing agency. There needs to be action taken in consonance with the canons of law.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

Sports education

The BCCI has done excellent work in developing the infrastructure and coaching facilities for cricket in India. The IPL has done brilliantly in giving opportunities for young cricketers to showcase their talent. The IPL has also enriched BCCI in a big way, in having a very large corpus of funds. However, India has still to set up world-class universities to train young men and women in the disciplines of sports medicine, sports psychology and counselling, and sports administration. It would be great if the BCCI could think big and set up a world class university in the national interest. Collaboration with a leading university in Australia or the U.S. will ensure the best in this specialised area.

Ramesh Daga,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The real challenge for foreign campuses

Philip G. Altbach
Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Fellow, Center for International Higher Education, Boston College, U.S.

Eldho Mathews
Programme Officer (internationalisation) at the Kerala State Higher Education Council, India

There has been much debate in India about attracting foreign university branch campuses since the University Grants Commission (UGC) established regulations in 2023. A few have set up shop: two Australian universities – Deakin University and the University of Wollongong – in Gujarat's GIFT City, and the U.K.'s University of Southampton in Gurugram, near Delhi.

The momentum has continued to grow in recent months. Last week, Letters of Intent were issued to five foreign institutions – the University of York, the University of Aberdeen, University of Western Australia, Illinois Institute of Technology, and Italy's Instituto Europeo di Design (IED) – to establish campuses in Mumbai.

However, early indicators suggest that Deakin and Wollongong, which began classes last year, and the University of Southampton, which is going to welcome its first batch of students, may be moving too quickly. Admissions were announced often before essential details, such as information about the faculty and other key elements, were made publicly available. While this rapid pace may signal strong intent and enthusiasm, it also raises many concerns.

Challenges to the branch idea

Globally, transnational education is navigating an increasingly uncertain landscape. This may be one of the most difficult global environments for universities to establish branches. The country with the largest number of overseas university branches globally, the U.S., is in complete disarray due to attacks on higher education from the Donald Trump administration. The last thing on the minds of most American university leaders is foreign initiatives. Therefore, the Illinois Institute of Technology's decision to establish a campus in India should be seen as an exception.

Even institutions willing to enter the Indian market will have to overcome numerous domestic challenges. A major issue is navigating India's highly competitive higher education landscape.

Most of the institutions seeking to enter the Indian market are not top-tier schools in their own countries. In India, they risk being seen as just one among several "elite" options available to students. These branch campuses follow a market-driven model, offering programmes in high-demand fields such as business, computer science, and data analytics. While this approach may be financially strategic, the narrow academic focus risks making them indistinguishable from India's better-performing private colleges and universities.

Therefore, the real challenge is to establish a clear academic identity. Without this, they risk being perceived as little more than diploma mills, ultimately undermining the reputation of the very universities they represent. It is also relevant that most of the branches already established or planning to be established are not comprehensive universities with diverse offerings and research focus, but rather are small specialised schools.

India already boasts renowned public institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), which are actively expanding their global engagement and research capabilities. Furthermore, a growing number of elite and semi-elite private universities in India now offer joint and double-degree programmes in collaboration with foreign institutions. In this dynamic environment, foreign branch campuses cannot rely solely on the strength of their brand.

A concerning trend among some international branch campuses already established in India is their disproportionate reliance on marketing strategies, often at the expense of academic investment. While marketing has its place, it cannot substitute for substance. Students and parents are increasingly discerning. They examine publicly available information on faculty credentials, curriculum design, industry relevance, and student support systems. Flashy campaigns without academic depth or meaningful student engagement will not build lasting trust.

Another key problem lies in students' perception and the reality of campus life. Early observations suggest that most of these branch campuses operate out of vertical buildings, often renting space. If foreign universities wish to be perceived as full-fledged institutions, they must invest in essential "soft" infrastructure as well.

Need for local relevance

From the Indian perspective, selecting the right partner is important. Universities from the Global North are typically interested in branch campuses for several reasons. Host countries or institutions may offer major incentives in terms of facilities or funds. In many cases, the primary motivation is to earn money, as illustrated by several branches in Dubai. Some wish to establish a presence in a country to recruit students to the home campus. Without major incentives, top global universities will seldom be attracted. India will need to carefully evaluate whether a particular branch proposal is suitable for local needs, and whether it is from a foreign institution that is attractive.

The establishment of foreign university branch campuses in India marks a significant milestone in the higher education landscape. However, if these ventures are rushed or poorly managed, they risk becoming cautionary tales – short-lived initiatives that erode trust, dilute brand value, and stall the broader momentum toward meaningful internationalisation.

A major issue for foreign university branch campuses is navigating India's highly competitive higher education landscape

Preferential treatment raises eyebrows

Kerala's proposed one-time amnesty for declaring wildlife trophy raises concerns

STATE OF PLAY

K.S. Sudhi
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The Kerala Forest Department's recent move to approach the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for a one-time amnesty for people possessing wildlife trophy in the State has reignited a debate over the department's alleged preferential treatment of wildlife offenders.

The department has pushed a proposal for "granting another chance to declare wild animal articles and trophies under Section 40 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972". The justification for moving the proposal to the State Board for Wildlife was to offer an opportunity for the legal heirs of those who inherited wildlife trophy from their ancestors with valid ownership certificates. Senior officials noted that there had been several instances of the legal heirs failing to get the inherited wildlife trophy declared in their names on time for various reasons.

Section 40 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, prescribes that "every person having the control, custody or possession of any animal article, trophy or uncured trophy of captive animals specified in Schedule I shall declare to the Chief Wildlife Warden or the Authorised Officer within 30 days from the commencement of the Act." Illegal possession of a wildlife trophy can result in imprisonment for three to seven years and a fine of not less than ₹25,000.

Although forest officials argued that the beneficiaries of the proposed scheme would be legal heirs of those with the

rightful ownership certificates – and that the Union government should take a call on the request – the move brought back to discussion the conflicting stands taken by the department in the case of actor Mohanlal and popular Malayalam rapper Vedan (V. M. Hiran Das), both booked for illegal possession of wildlife trophy. Officials asserted that the proposal had nothing to do with any of the wildlife crime cases currently being pursued in courts, but this has set tongues wagging.

When the department took a benevolent approach to Mohanlal, who was reportedly found in possession of two pairs of ivory fixed on a mirror stand a few years ago, it went tough on Vedan, who was found wearing a chain with a pendant allegedly made from a leopard tooth.

While it took an Income Tax Department raid for the department to know about the actor's alleged possession of ivory, a criminal case was booked by police for alleged possession of ganja, paving the way for the action against Vedan. The department wasted no time in arresting the rapper, whereas it reportedly handled the case of Mohanlal with kid gloves. Vedan told officials that the leopard tooth was a gift from an admirer and that he was unaware of the legal intricacies.

Incidentally, both cases were booked at the Malayattoor Forest Range office and registered at the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court, Perumbavoor.

The department chose not to remove the mirror studded with two sets of fully developed ivory to its strongroom or the State Treasury, where the material objects involved in court cases are stored. Though not illegal to leave the material objects, which are difficult to transport, with the accused after completing the legal formalities, questions on possible destruction of evidence by the accused were raised in this case.

The alleged haste with which the department acted in Vedan's case received widespread condemnation from the public and those who had earlier led the State Forest Department. There was criticism that the department chose to ignore the alleged use of similar pendants by two other Malayalam movie actors, including a Union Minister.

Urgent need

"Great injustice to Vedan. Nobody can be duped by a fake elephant tusk. But anybody can get confused with a tiger/leopard tooth with that of another similar animal. What a shame, especially considering the fact that the much-discussed elephant tusk case was also dealt with in the same Forest Range Office," noted Gopinath Vallilil, a former Head of Forest Force, Kerala, in his social media account.

Preferential treatment for the mighty would undermine the foundation of the rule of law and public trust in the system. The discriminatory treatment meted out to the two accused in the wildlife crime cases calls for balanced handling of the cases to earn and consolidate public trust and fair dispensation of justice.

Uttarakhand — a hotbed for helicopter accidents

Fourteen crashes investigated till 2023, coupled with the spate of incidents in 2025, highlight a persistent aviation crisis

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Sambavi Parthasarathy

The latest helicopter crash in Uttarakhand – which claimed seven lives, among them a two-year-old child, during a Kedarnath pilgrimage flight – adds yet another tragic entry to the State's already long record as a hotbed of helicopter disasters.

Within a brief window of barely two months, the latest is the State's fifth helicopter accident. In May this year, six passengers en route to Gangotri Temple were killed when their aircraft crashed in Uttarkashi district. Reports reveal that the same month witnessed two further incidents – one, a near-catastrophe narrowly avoided in Badrinath, and the other, an AIIMS air-ambulance crash that, fortunately, caused no fatalities – while, more recently in June, a Kedarnath-bound chopper was forced into an emergency landing after a technical snag, highlighting a recurrent aviation crisis in the region.

This spate recalls October 2022, when three separate helicopter accidents claimed 13 lives. Two of those tragedies struck defence helicopters operating in Arunachal Pradesh, and on October 18 that year, a commercial chopper ferrying Kedarnath pilgrims crashed, killing all seven people aboard.

A conservative analysis of incident summaries filed with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau indicates that at least 14 helicopters – many assigned to ferry pilgrims within Uttarakhand's rugged terrain – crashed between 1990 and 2023. **Map 1** plots the approximate departure or intended landing sites for 75 commercial helicopters lost during that period, revealing a concentration of accidents in north-eastern hills as well.

In the 1990 and 2023 period, 165 people lost their lives in accidents involving commercial helicopters, as shown in **Chart 2**. In these incidents, 126 people were injured, too.

Following the latest tragedy, police have charged two senior officials of Aryan Aviation Pvt. Ltd. – the operator of the crashed helicopter – with alleged negligence. Notably, the company also owned the Kedarnath-bound chopper that went down in October 2022, killing seven, and another aircraft that crashed in 2019 after striking an overhead cable.

Operating choppers in harsh weather – whether anticipated or sudden – ranks as the third-most frequent cause of helicopter mishaps in the 1990-2023 period.

Pilot error or improper handling remains the leading factor, with inadequate maintenance close behind. Other recurring causes include non-adherence to flight rules by crew, technical faults, and entangled with cables (where a helicopter gets entangled in wires/cables used by locals in mountainous regions to transport goods). **Chart 3** shows the reasons behind accidents in the period.

Moreover, as **Chart 4** indicates, the majority of commercial-helicopter accidents occurred in broad daylight, with most such crashes taking place while the copters were cruising. A significant share of accidents also happened during the landing phase, whereas take-off or climb proved to be the safest portions of the journey, registering the fewest accidents in the period, as depicted in **Chart 5**.

While it is true that, when analysed over time, the overall number of helicopter-related accidents in India has declined, the recent spate of crashes in Uttarakhand is a grim reminder that such tragedies continue to occur, cutting short lives. It should also be noted that in the recent safety audit by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, India had improved its "effective implementation" score to over 85% from the previously low score of 70%.

Copter crashes: a profile

The data were sourced from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau

Map 1: The approximate take-off or intended landing spots of 75 commercial helicopters involved in accidents in the 1990-2023 period

Chart 3: The chart shows the reasons for majority of commercial-helicopter accidents

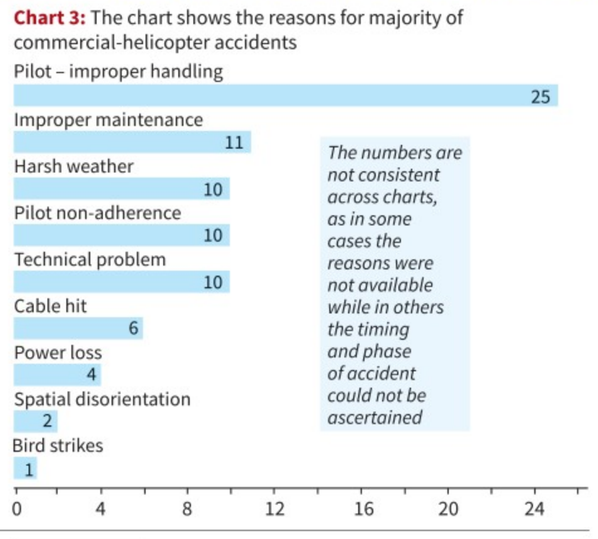
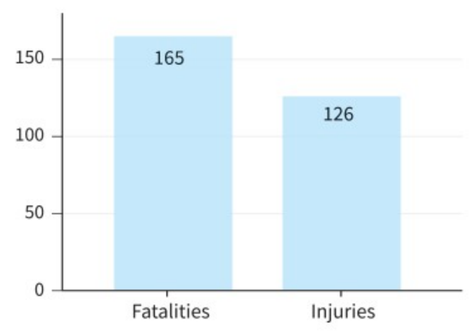

Pilot – improper handling 25
Improper maintenance 11
Harsh weather 10
Pilot non-adherence 10
Technical problem 10
Cable hit 6
Power loss 4
Spatial disorientation 2
Bird strikes 1
0 4 8 12 16 20 24
The numbers are not consistent across charts, as in some cases the reasons were not available while in others the timing and phase of accident could not be ascertained

Chart 2: The chart shows the number of fatalities and injuries from fatal commercial-helicopter accidents between 1990-2023



Compiled by B Renuka Ramakrishna, Safa Salsabeel Z, Niranjana VB, and Manaswini Vijayakumar who are interning with The Hindu Data Team

Chart 4: The chart shows the time of occurence of fatal commercial-helicopter accidents

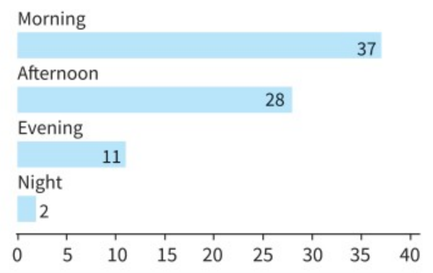
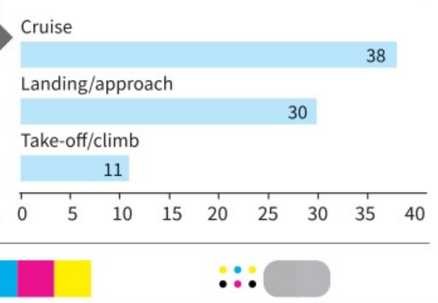


Chart 5: The chart shows the phases in which commercial-helicopter accidents occured



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 19, 1975

Weather modification, new U.S. war weapon

New Delhi, June 18: Weather modification as a new weapon of war might have startling implications for the world, writes PTI's Science Correspondent. A new super weapon, mentioned by the Soviet Communist Party Chief, Mr. Brezhnev, in a speech last Friday, was subsequently identified by the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee's daily as a ghastly weather weapon developed by the United States.

According to a Geneva report, the American and Soviet experts are now negotiating a possible ban on meteorological warfare.

Military scientists have been developing techniques for dispersing fog, modifying cloud cover and lightning, handling hurricanes, and even producing rain or snow.

Prof. Edith Brown Weiss of Princeton University recently wrote in "Survival" (published by the Institute of Strategic Studies, London) that weather weapons resulting from such research are on the "horizon."

Prof. Weiss said that the Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA) of the U.S. Defence Department has undertaken a worldwide climate modelling programme to detect modifications in climate and to predict the likely consequences.

"Attempts have been made to calculate the impact of introducing contaminants into the atmosphere and of depleting ozone", the Professor said.

Ozone shields people against dangerous ultraviolet rays of the sun.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 19, 1925

Unexplored continent

London, June 18: An Arctic expedition headed by Mr. Donald MacMillan has started from Boston. It consists of two ships *Bowdoin* and *Peary*, the latter carrying three aeroplanes. It will proceed to Etah (Greenland) with the object of investigating the supposed existence of a vast unexplored continent between the North Pole and the North-west passage.

The expedition, with which the United States Government is co-operating, has aroused particular interest in Canada in view of her claim to all the territory between Canada and the North Pole.

From Page One

India will never accept a mediation: PM to Trump

"This man [Munir] was extremely influential in stopping it from the Pakistan side, Modi from the India side and others. They were going at it and they are both nuclear countries," the U.S. President added.

Mr. Misri said Mr. Trump invited Mr. Modi to Washington on his way back from Canada, which the Prime Minister declined as he was travelling to Croatia after attending the G-7 outreach session in Canada. The invitation from Mr. Trump was particularly significant as General Munir was in Washington and scheduled to have lunch with him on Wednesday, a White House advisory had said.

"Prime Minister Modi clearly conveyed to President Trump that at no point during this entire sequence of events was there any discussion, at any level, on an India-U.S. trade deal, or any proposal for a mediation by the U.S. between India and Pakistan," Mr. Misri said, adding Mr. Trump "listened carefully to the points conveyed by the Prime Minister and expressed his support towards India's fight against terrorism".

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) did not respond to Mr. Trump's latest comments, which he has repeated more than a dozen times despite denials from New Delhi, over the past six weeks since Operation Sindoor began with India's strikes on Pakistan on May 7. Mr. Trump had repeatedly claimed credit for the ceasefire on May 10, saying he had averted a "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan using trade as a leverage, and both U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick have officially repeated the claims.

In his statement onboard the Prime Minister aircraft, Mr. Misri said the two leaders had also discussed the ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran and called for a "direct dialogue" between Russia and Ukraine. He said Mr. Modi extended an invitation to Mr. Trump to visit India for the Quad summit, expected to be held in November this year, and that U.S. President accepted the same.

Khamenei says Iran will not surrender

"Air Force jets have just destroyed the internal security headquarters of the Iranian regime – the main arm of repression of the Iranian dictator," the Israeli Minister said in a statement, vowing to "strike symbols of governance and hit the Ayatollah regime wherever it may be".

"More than 50 Israeli Air Force fighter jets... carried out a series of air strikes in the Tehran area over the past few hours," the Israeli military said, adding that several weapons manufacturing facilities and a centrifuge production site were hit.

In another strike on a site in Tehran, "one building was hit where advanced centrifuge rotors were manufactured and tested", the agency added in a post on X.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had launched hypersonic Fattah-1 missiles at Tel Aviv.

Hypersonic missiles travel at more than five times the speed of sound and can manoeuvre mid-flight, making them harder to track and intercept.

No missile struck Tel Aviv overnight, though AFP photos showed Israel's air defence systems activated to intercept missiles over the commercial hub. Residential areas in Israel have also been hit, and foreign governments have scrambled to evacuate their citizens from both countries.

Some Israelis stranded abroad since last week decided to return home, however.

Since the conflict began on June 13, at least 24 people have been killed in Israel and hundreds wounded, the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Nethanyahu had said on Monday.

Iran had said on Sunday that Israeli strikes had killed at least 224 people, including military commanders, nuclear scientists and civilians.

India launches Operation Sindhu, evacuates 110 students from Iran

90 students are from Jammu and Kashmir, while the rest are from Karnataka and U.P.; they will arrive in New Delhi today morning; nearly 90 pilgrims from U.P. who are stuck in Iran say they are not aware of Centre's evacuation plan

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

As the conflict between Israel and Iran rages on, the Indian government launched Operation Sindhu on Wednesday to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran.

As a first step, the Indian Embassy has evacuated 110 Indian students from northern Iran, and they will reach New Delhi on Thursday morning.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the embassy assisted the students to cross over to Yerevan, Armenia via land routes on Tuesday, from where they left on a special flight at 2.55 p.m. (IST) on Wednesday. They will arrive in New Delhi in the early hours of Thursday as part of the first phase of Operation Sindhu.

Mohammad Javad Hosseini, Deputy Ambassador of Iran to India, told pressmen that Iran was committed to protecting the foreign nationals hosted by the country. "We had strong cooperation between our Ministries in Tehran and the Indian Embassy to ensure the safe evacuation of Indian nationals or those who are willing to leave the country, in line with the evacuation programme defined by the Indian Embassy in Tehran," he said.

Rescue bird: Kashmiri students wait to board a flight to India at the Yerevan International Airport in Armenia on Wednesday. PTI

Safe passage

Tamheed Mughal, one of the 110 students on the flight from Yerevan to New Delhi via Doha, told *The Hindu* that after Tehran was bombed by Israel, they were moved to a safe accommodation in Qom from where they were taken to Armenia on a bus.

"After reaching Yerevan, we were informed that we will be boarding a flight around 3 p.m. IST to Doha. From there, another flight is scheduled to New Delhi around 10.15 p.m. (IST)," he said.

He said that 90 out of the 110 students were from Jammu and Kashmir who were pursuing medical degrees in Iran, while the rest were from Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

Another student, Abrar, a final-year MBBS student from the Tehran University who is yet to be evacuated, said: "When Israel launched an air strike in Tehran, the men's dormitory [in the university] was hit, and two of my peers were injured," he said. Both were Kashmiri students, he added.

In Qom, Tatheer Fatima, a 35-year-old pilgrim from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, told *The Hindu* that the situation is worsening by the hour.

"We have not been able to contact the Indian Embassy and have no idea about the evacuation plan; meanwhile accessing essential medicines and child care has become increasingly difficult," she said.

The Lucknow resident is accompanied by 96 people, mostly elderly women and at least two minors.

NPS, UPS pensioners to get parity in gratuity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Personnel Ministry has established parity between National Pension Scheme (NPS) pensioners and Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) pensioners regarding gratuity eligibility.

Both categories of pensioners will now be eligible for a gratuity of ₹25 lakh.

The Ministry has also provided employees the option to get benefits under the old pension scheme (OPS) in the event of death during service or discharge from government service due to invalidation or disability.

Briefing about the decisions, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said the move addressed a significant demand of government staff, and the new provision reflected the government's commitment to ensure social security.

Bombay HC rejects BCCI's plea against Kochi Tuskers

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

In a major setback to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the Bombay High Court has upheld arbitral awards, directing BCCI to pay ₹385.5 crore to Kochi Cricket Private Ltd. (KCPL) and ₹153.34 crore to Rendezvous Sports World (RSW) in connection with the Kochi IPL (Indian Premier League) franchise.

Kochi Tuskers had participated in the 2011 season of IPL but was terminated by the BCCI the following year after allegations of breach of the franchise agreement by failing to provide bank guarantees. KCPL and RSW challenged the termination through arbitration, which ruled in their favour in 2015.

A Single-Bench judge, Justice Riyaz I. Chagla, rejected BCCI's challenge to the arbitral awards, ruling that the Court could not sit and act as an appellate authority over the arbitrator's findings.

Justice Chagla observed, "BCCI's dissatisfaction as to the findings rendered in respect of the evidence and/or merits cannot be a ground to assail the Award."

Calcutta HC asks Centre to resume implementation of MGNREGS in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday directed the Union government to resume implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in West Bengal from August 1. The scheme, which provides 100 days of wage employment to rural households, has remained suspended in the State since March 2022.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam and Justice Chaitali Chatterjee noted that the Ministry of Rural Development had invoked Clause 27 of the MGNREGA to withhold funds to the State, a provision permitting fund flow stoppage for a reasonable period of time. "At this juncture, the endeavour of the court is on implementation of the scheme in the State of West Bengal which has been kept in abeyance past close to three years," the Bench observed.

Justice Sivagnanam, delivering the order, stated that the Act "does not envisage a situation where the scheme would be put to cold storage for eternity". The Court pointed out that while the Union government is within its rights to impose special conditions for implementation to avoid irregularities, a clear demarcation must be drawn between past and future actions.

Life on hold: The suspension of the scheme is estimated to have impacted over two crore rural workers in the State. DEBASISH BHADURI

The Bench also took note of irregularities in wage disbursement flagged by Central teams, and observed that action had already been initiated and recoveries made. It directed that the recovered amounts be returned to the Consolidated Fund of India.

The High Court's directive assumes significance as the suspension of the scheme is estimated to have impacted over two crore rural workers in the State, leading to widespread distress migration.

Welcoming the decision, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the petition seeking resumption of MGNREGS had not been filed by the State government, but by an organisation. She also mentioned that the State had launched an alternative programme, Karmashree, to provide 50 days of employment to affected people.

The petition was filed by the Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity, an organisation representing State's agricultural workers.

Officials face probe for submitting fake documents for CSE

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

In 2024, the IAS probationer Khedkar was sacked for giving fake PwBD and OBC certificates

Around 20 bureaucrats faced scrutiny for allegedly submitting fake income and disability certificates to avail themselves of reservation in the Civil Services Examination (CSE) conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, government officials said on Wednesday.

While the probe has cleared most of the names, one officer is still under investigation.

Officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Revenue Service (IRS), and those from other Union government services with several years of service faced the probe following complaints on social media last year, officials said.

Document scrutiny

The income, caste, and physical disability documents submitted by at least 40 of 1,009 candidates who cleared the CSE 2024 are being investigated, the official added. Results of the examination were announced in April this year.

Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Personnel and Grievances, said at a press conference on Wednesday that investigations were conducted whenever a complaint was received, but the issue was too big to be left to the Ministry alone. It required cooperation from the larger society as it had a social-cultural genesis, he said, on aspirants who submit fraudulent certificates to get reservation in Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) categories.

In 2024, IAS probationer Puja Khedkar was sacked for submitting fake PwBD and Other Backward Class (OBC) certificates to clear the 2022 Civil Services Examination. A criminal case was lodged against her.

A.P Das Joshi, Additional Secretary, DoPT said that after the Khedkar case, the medical test mechanism for PwBD candidates has been streamlined.

Bill on amendment to nuclear energy laws may be brought in Monsoon Session: Minister

Jacob Koshy
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Despite the 2008 India-U.S. nuclear deal, there has been almost no progress on bringing nuclear reactors to India

The Union government may consider legislation to amend aspects of the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act in the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, Minister of State for Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

If passed, such amendments could help kick-start private investment in nuclear energy.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Union Budget earlier this year, had announced a "mission" for nuclear energy, involving the private sector in the construction and development of nuclear reactors. She had said that "amendments" to these two Acts would be "taken up" in this regard.

Responding to a query on significant Bills expected in the Monsoon Session, Mr. Singh said that legislation to amend these two Acts was likely.

"We may consider bringing in these [amendment] Bills," he indicated.

Despite the 2008 India-U.S. nuclear deal signed by then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and United States President George W. Bush, there has been almost no progress on bringing nuclear reactors to India.

A key reason for this is the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, which exposes makers of nuclear power plant equipment to almost unlimited monetary liabilities in India, in the event of a nuclear accident.

The Atomic Energy Act, on the other hand, does not allow private companies to run nuclear power plants in the country, and also disallows foreign investment in Indian plants.

New system to deliver elector ID cards within 15 days of update: EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday introduced a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) enabling the delivery of voter ID cards within 15 days of an update to the electoral rolls.

The Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) will be delivered in case of new enrolment of an elector as well as change in any particulars of an existing elector within 15 days, the poll body said in a statement.

The new system will ensure real-time tracking of each stage right from the EPIC generation by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) till the delivery of the voter ID card to the elector through the Department of Posts (DoP).

Timely change: The new system will ensure real-time tracking of each stage right from EPIC generation till its delivery. ANI

Voters will also receive notifications via SMS at each stage, keeping them informed about the status of their EPICs.

For this purpose, the commission has introduced a dedicated IT module on its recently launched ECINet platform.

The new IT platform will replace the existing process by re-engineering the current system and streamlining the workflow. DoP's Application Programme Interface (API) will be integrated with the ECINet for seamless delivery, the statement said, adding that this initiative aims to enhance service delivery while maintaining data security.

While Opposition parties, led by the Congress, have alleged manipulations in voter lists, the EC has maintained that the process for additions and deletions is transparent, rigorous, and immune to arbitrary changes.

Recently, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi had alleged "industrial scale rigging" in the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly polls.Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, while delivering his keynote address at the Stockholm International Conference on 'Electoral Integrity' in Sweden earlier this month, said preparation of electoral rolls in India was one of the world's most "rigorous and transparent" exercises.

New rules to synchronise use of IST: Pralhad Joshi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Consumer Affairs Ministry said here on Wednesday that the proposed Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules will mandate synchronisation of all legal, administrative and commercial operations with IST, making India's timekeeping infrastructure legally enforceable, digitally secure and globally benchmarked.

Briefing reporters, Union Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said it is strategically significant to synchronise all legal, commercial and administrative activities with the IST so that the use of alternative time references could be prohibited.

In a reset, India, Canada agree to appoint High Commissioners

Modi meets his Canadian counterpart, Mark Carney, on sidelines of G-7 outreach; both sides agree to restore bilateral ties with trade talks, and other dialogues snapped over Nijjar killing; Canada, G-7 raise problem of 'transnational repression'

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit at Kananaskis. PTI/PMO

Two years after a major rupture in ties, India and Canada have agreed to restore the High Commissioners in Delhi and Ottawa, and discussed restarting talks for a trade agreement, visa services, and other dialogue mechanisms. The decisions came during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's talks with Canada's newly elected Prime Minister, Mark Carney, on the sidelines of the G-7 outreach session in Kananaskis, Canada, where India is a special invitee.

"The Prime Ministers agreed to take calibrated steps to restore stability to this very important relationship. The first of these steps agreed upon was to restore High Commissioners to each other's capitals at an early date," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced after the meeting, adding that "senior and working level mechanisms in a host of areas related to trade, people-to-people contact, and connectivity" had also been resumed.

"The leaders also discussed the importance of restarting the stalled negotiations on the Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA), with a view to paving the way for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). They agreed to task their respective officials to engage further in this regard," Mr. Misri said.

Names ready

Officials said the appointment of High Commissioners may be processed as early as July, once Canada names it nominee. New Delhi has already forwarded the name of India's Ambassador to Spain, Dinesh Patnaik, to Ottawa as its nominee, it is learnt.

In addition, the two Prime Ministers discussed collaborations in "clean energy, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, LNG, food security, critical minerals, higher education, mobility, and supply chain resilience", a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Significantly, neither side directly referred to the case of Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was gunned down in Canada two years ago, which led to a rift in bilateral ties after the previous Justin Trudeau government accused the Indian government of orchestrating the killing, and India accused Canada of failing to protect Indian diplomats from Khalistani threats. However, Mr. Carney referred to the problem of 'transnational repression', both ahead of talks with Mr. Modi, and in the readout of the meeting.

"PM Carney raised priorities on the G-7 agenda, including transnational crime and repression, security, and the rules-based order," a readout by the Canadian Prime Minister's office said.

In a joint statement on transnational repression issued separately, G-7 leaders condemned all violence and harassment against "dissidents, journalists, human rights defenders, religious minorities, and those identified as part of diaspora communities" by other countries.

The U.S. government has also indicted an Indian official in a similar case involving an alleged assassination plot against another Khalistani activist, but more discreetly than Canada did, while other members, including the U.K. and Germany, have raised their concerns over the targeting of activists bilaterally.

Meanwhile, a report by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, submitted to the Canadian Parliament and due to be released publicly on Wednesday, will say that the said links between "the government of India and the Nijjar murder signals a significant escalation of India's repression efforts against the Khalistan movement and a clear intent to target individuals in North America", the Canadian *The Globe and Mail* newspaper reported, indicating the issue could continue to impact bilateral ties.

The breakthrough in the Modi-Carney meeting came after two years of recriminatory statements by Delhi and Ottawa, after former Canadian PM Justin Trudeau publicly blamed Indian government agents for the Nijjar killing and plotting attacks on other Canadian-Sikh activists in September 2023, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police implicated Home Minister Amit Shah in its investigations.

India denied all the allegations, suspended visa services for Canadians temporarily due to threats faced by Indian diplomats, and expelled nearly two-thirds of the diplomats at the Canadian High Commission, accusing some of carrying out activities not in line with their diplomatic duties.

In October 2024, the matter escalated after Canada expelled the Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma and five diplomats as "persons of interest" in the Nijjar case, while India expelled six Canadian diplomats and accused the Canadian government of supporting "extremism, violence and separatism against India".

Mr. Trudeau's resignation from office and the election of his party colleague Mr. Carney in April this year has allowed a relaxation in ties, and Delhi and Ottawa have sought to "reset" them and move on to other issues.

The Hindu Group awardees along with L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, and Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*, at the WAN-IFRA Digital Media Awards, 2025, in Chennai on Wednesday. R. RAVINDRAN

The Hindu named 'The Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Four gold, three silver and three bronze trophies won across categories at WAN-IFRA event

The Hindu was named the Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025, picking up 10 awards across various award categories, at the WAN-IFRA Digital Media Awards 2025 South Asia, presented by the World Association of News Publishers on Wednesday.

Participating newsrooms from across South Asia competed in 12 categories, which included audience engagement, native ad campaign, podcasts, use of AI, video and data visualisation.

The Hindu took four gold trophies – 'Best Use of Video' and 'Best Native Advertising Campaign', both awarded for *The Hindu* 'Made of Chennai' initiative; 'Best Use of AI in Revenue Strategy'; and 'Best Podcast' (In Focus: Why does the Election Commission need seven phases to conduct the General Election?).

Use of AI, data

In addition to the gold trophies, *The Hindu* won three silver trophies in the categories 'Best Data Visualisation' (How India voted: A retrospective from 1952 - 2024), 'Best Use of AI in Revenue Strategy', and 'Best Digital Subscription'; and three bronze trophies for the categories 'Best in Audience Engagement', 'Best Data Visualisation' (on the Kallakurichi hooch tragedy), and 'Best Digital Subscription'.

The Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025 was presented to *The Hindu* by Magdoom Mohamed, Managing Director of South Asia at WAN-IFRA, and Mariam Mammen Mathew, Vice-President of WAN-IFRA and CEO of Manorama Online.

Suresh Nambath, Editor of *The Hindu*, and L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group, received the prestigious award on behalf of the organisation.

"The overall champion publisher award means a lot because it reflects the work done by multiple departments and team members. Good work happens only when people come together," Mr. Navaneeth said.

"These awards are designed to recognise excellence in digital publishing and to celebrate the outstanding work done by publishers across South Asia," Mr. Mohamed said.

India, Croatia to firm up bilateral defence ties: Modi

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

PM Modi exchanges gifts with his Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenkovic in Zagreb. PTI/PMO

India and Croatia will make long-term plans for deepening the defence partnership, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

Joint space ventures

Speaking in Zagreb after holding an official dialogue with Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, Mr. Modi said Croatian companies will be welcomed to participate in developing India's coastal infrastructure and that India and Croatia will jointly work on space ventures.

The Prime Minister appreciated Croatia for expressing solidarity with India in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

"In the field of defence cooperation, a long-term plan will be made that will focus on defence production alongside training and military exchange. There are many areas where our economies can supplement each other's capacities," said Mr. Modi adding that India is going to enhance investment into Croatia's critical industries like pharmaceuticals, agriculture, IT, clean technology, digital technology, and semiconductors.

"According to the Sagarmala project, port modernization, coastal zone development and multimodal connectivity will provide vast opportunity for Croatia's companies," said the Prime Minister welcoming Croatian participation into ship building. Mr. Modi highlighted India's old connection with the Adriatic region and said this connection helps in building people-to-people connection.

"We both support that irrespective of Europe or Asia, solution to disputes can not be found in the battlefields and dialogue and diplomacy alone is the only way out," he said.

Turning a blind eye to terrorism is a betrayal of all humanity, says PM

Press Trust of India
KANANASKIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with G-7 leaders during an outreach session on energy security at the G-7 Summit in Kananaskis. MEA

India's neighbourhood has become a breeding ground for terrorism and turning a blind eye towards the challenge would be a "betrayal of humanity", Prime Minister Narendra Modi told G-7 leaders on Wednesday, seeking action against Pakistan for its support to cross-border terrorism.

In an address at a G-7 outreach session here, Mr. Modi said the April 22 Pahalgam attack was a direct attack on the "soul, identity, and dignity" of every Indian, adding that any country that supported terrorism must be held accountable and made to pay the price.

The Prime Minister was addressing the G-7 outreach session on energy security on Tuesday.

"Terrorism is the enemy of humanity. It stands in opposition to all nations that uphold democratic values," Mr. Modi said.

"Unfortunately, our own neighbourhood has become a breeding ground for terrorism.... For the sake of global peace and prosperity, our thinking and our policies must be extremely clear – any country that supports terrorism must be held accountable and made to pay the price," he said.

Mr. Modi said, "On the one hand, we are quick to impose various sanctions based on our own preferences and interests. On the other hand, nations that openly support terrorism continue to be rewarded."

The Prime Minister posed a few questions too. "Are we truly serious about addressing terrorism? Will we understand the true meaning of terrorism only when it knocks on our own doors? Can those who spread terror and those who suffer from it be weighed on the same scale? Are our global institutions at risk of losing their credibility?" he asked.

He called for decisive global action in dealing with terrorism.

"Turning a blind eye towards terrorism for the sake of vested interests, or extending support to terror or terrorists, is a betrayal of all humanity," he added.

Govt. has not abandoned lateral entry, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The lateral entry policy has not been abandoned, and the Union government is still open to it, Union Minister of State for Personnel and Public Grievances Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday. He reiterated that reservation rules could not apply to recruitment by this method.

While addressing a press conference on 11 years of the Narendra Modi-led government, Mr. Singh said: "...Don't say lateral entries did not happen before this government came. We tried to institutionalise the recruitment by routing it through UPSC...we did not have an objective mechanism earlier."

PM should tell all-party meeting about what he told Trump: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Party claims Trump's lunch meeting with Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir was a 'huge setback'

The Congress on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi must take the nation into confidence by chairing an all-party meeting on his return from the G-7 Summit, and brief leaders on what he told U.S. President Donald Trump in a telephonic conversation on Tuesday.

The principal Opposition party's demand came after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri issued a video statement about the phone call between Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi, in which Mr. Modi firmly stated that India does not and will "never accept" mediation [in India-Pakistan issues], and that the recent cessation of military action against Pakistan happened at the latter's request.

On the Foreign Secretary's statement that Mr. Modi refused any talk of mediation with Mr. Trump, Congress general secretary communications in-charge Jairam Ramesh said: "Say the same thing in Parliament. Now, since a special session of Parliament is not taking place and Parliament will meet on July 21, call an all-party meeting."

"How long does it take to call an all-party meeting? One day? Call a meeting and say the same things that he is supposedly said to have told President Trump. Why are you [Mr. Modi] not saying the same things at an all-party meeting? Why are you running away from it and getting the Foreign Secretary to say?" Mr. Ramesh asked.

The party also claimed that Mr. Trump's lunch meeting with Pakistan's Army chief Asim Munir was a "huge setback" for India. Mr. Ramesh told a news agency that if Indira Gandhi had been the Prime Minister, she would have conveyed her disapproval of the lunch meet to the U.S.

In an X post, Mr. Ramesh said: "Field Marshal Asim Munir, the man whose incendiary, inflammatory and provocative remarks were linked directly to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, is having lunch today with President Trump in the White House. Is this why President Trump abandoned the G7 Summit a day early denying Mr. Narendra Modi a huge hug?"

"President Trump himself has trumpeted 14 times that he brought about a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, meaning he ended Operation Sindoor," he said in his post.

Modi's telephone call with Trump exposed 'lies' of Congress, says BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amit Malviya

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday said the telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump "exposed" the attempts of the Congress to derail the national narrative on Operation Sindoor.

BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya, through a post on X, said the Congress and its "troll army" could not come to terms with the fact that Mr. Modi "told President Trump in clear terms – India neither needs nor accepts any third party mediation. The de-escalation with Pakistan happened through DGMOs [Directors General of Military Operations], and at Pakistan's own request".

"The Congress must stop maligning India's firm and principled foreign policy just to feed its petty narratives. Under the Congress, India was seen as a weak, third-world country. Today, India is a rising power – a bright star in the global order. No amount of lies can dim that truth," he said.

Listing the takeaways of the telephonic conversation, Mr. Malviya said the PM spoke with Mr. Trump on Operation Sindoor – which was initiated post Pahalgam terror attack – stating that the response against the terror infrastructure in Pakistan was measured, precise, and non-escalatory. Mr. Modi asserted that India viewed terrorism not as a proxy war, but as a full-scale war and that Operation Sindoor was still ongoing.

Mr. Trump was invited to the next Quad summit in India and he accepted it, expressing eagerness to visit. "This conversation is bad news for the Congress! Ever since the resounding success of Operation Sindoor, the Congress has been busy spreading lies, canards, and confusion," Mr. Malviya said.

In another post, he accused Congress leader Jairam Ramesh of being "a congenital liar". "He is now peddling yet another falsehood, claiming that Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's statement doesn't match the U.S. readout-...but here is the catch: the readout he is citing is from January 2025! And there is no official U.S. release yet on the latest call," said the BJP leader.

INBRIEF

Centre greenlights 2.35 lakh houses under PMAY scheme

The Centre on Wednesday approved construction of 2.35 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The approval was given at the third meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) chaired by Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, an official statement said. The houses would be constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0. The total houses approved are 2,34,864 for nine States – Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and U.P. As of now, the total number of houses sanctioned under PMAY-U 2.0 is 7,09,979.

FASTag pass for ₹3,000 to allow 200 trips a year

Soon, road users driving through National highways will be able to make 200 trips by paying only ₹3,000 as toll fee over 12 months, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced on Tuesday. He said the FASTag-based annual pass would be introduced from August 15 to address concerns over rising toll fees. The pass is designed exclusively for non-commercial private vehicles such as cars, jeeps, and vans. Once bought, it will be valid for a period of 12 months or 200 trips, whichever comes first. "This decision will provide a big relief to the public. The average toll fee will come down to ₹15 from ₹50 to ₹100," Mr. Gadkari said.

Goyal optimistic about signing initial part of trade deal with U.S. by July 9

Union Commerce Minister says the two countries are in continuous dialogue, and given that the U.S. and India are very friendly countries and trusted partners, 'we will be able to come up with a win-win for the businesses of both countries'

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

As the clock ticks towards U.S. President Donald Trump's "reciprocal tariffs" to kick in on July 9, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has expressed optimism that India and the U.S. could sign a preliminary or early tranche of a larger trade deal before that date, though he stopped short of confirming a deal would be signed.

"We are in continuous dialogue. I have always been an optimist," Mr. Goyal said in an interview with *The Hindu* on the fringes of a conference organised by the India Global Forum 2025 in London.

"I'm very confident that, given that the U.S. and India are very friendly countries, trusted partners, both wanting to have resilient, reliable, trusted supply chains, both vibrant democracies, we will be able to come up with a win-win for the businesses of both countries," Mr. Goyal added. Failure to sign such a deal would, as things stand, result in Indian goods entering the U.S. being tariffed at 26% starting in early July.

Mr. Goyal did not comment on whether a deal on the dairy and agricultural goods sectors would form part of the preliminary tranche of the Bilateral Trade Agreement under discussion with the U.S.

"I think negotiations are best left to the negotiators and the negotiating table," he said.

Mr. Goyal also did not want to comment on the impact a lapse in the U.S.'s Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) would have on the trade deal. The TPA is a process in the U.S. Congress to delegate authority to the U.S. President to fast track trade deals, which often involve tariff rates that are more favourable than the best rate offered to other World Trade Organization (WTO) member countries, known as the Most-Favoured Nation rate.

Earlier, Mr. Goyal had participated in a moderated discussion with his U.K. counterpart, Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds. The two countries had announced a free trade agreement on May 6. Mr. Goyal said the U.K. and India were successful in concluding a deal because the sides had agreed to be sensitive to one another's concerns, setting aside issues that could not be negotiated easily.

Pact plan: A fair deal in time may upend the proposed 26% tariff on imports from India starting early July. AP

On the India-EU trade talks, Mr. Goyal said the sides were looking to conclude a trade deal by the end of this calendar year.

"There's that famous English phrase...since we are in Great Britain ...'the air is pregnant with possibilities'," he said, adding he did not know what size and shape the agreement would have.

On whether the Trump administration's return to the White House had impacted the speed and direction of India's trade talks with the EU, Mr. Goyal suggested that third parties did not impact bilateral deals. Last week, the EU's Foreign Minister, Kaja Kallas, had said at a joint press conference with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar that the EU was a "reliable, predictable and credible partner for India".

"I don't think there's any impact of any other situation on a negotiation between two countries, because these negotiations are not a short-term arrangement. These are like long-term marriages you are negotiating after crystal-gazing ... 25 years, 50 years, into the future," Mr. Goyal said.

'Strengthen WTO'

On the relevance of the WTO, given the change in the U.S. administration and its retrenchment from multilateralism, Mr. Goyal said the world trade body had an "important" role to play and that India believed "very strongly" in multilateralism.

"[India] believes we have to strengthen the WTO over the next few years through dialogue and discussions and will continue to play an increasingly important role to promote multilateralism," he said.

Mr. Goyal also said that India had not made an intervention with the U.K. on behalf of Tata Steel, which owns the Port Talbot steel plant in south Wales. The plant has had to import raw material from India and Europe following the closure of its blast furnace last year as it prepares to operationalise an electric-arc furnace in 2027. This may mean it runs afoul of the U.S.'s rules on inputs to qualify for any tariff reductions that the U.K. and the U.S. agree to. The Trump administration has threatened to fully or partially maintain tariffs of 25% on British steel unless the U.K. provides guarantees on Tata Steel's inputs, as per a report in the *Guardian*.

"That, the U.K., has to negotiate with the U.S.," Mr. Goyal said.

Cong. leader urges Centre to strengthen air safety

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, MP, on Wednesday said there was a growing paranoia among air travellers after the Ahmedabad crash and the government needed to reassure the public by strengthening safety.

In a social media post on X, Mr. Venugopal said the recent air accidents "are not isolated incidents but signs of systemic stress within our aviation sector". "We have not yet recovered from the horror of the Ahmedabad flight crash... In the days that followed, concerns have only deepened with reports of technical glitches, emergency landings, flight cancellations, and repeated helicopter accidents, especially along high-risk pilgrimage routes," he said.

Former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel questioned the "silence" of Singapore Airlines over the horrific crash. In an X post, he said Singapore Airlines was a 25.1% stakeholder in Tata Group-run Air India.

Shortly, thereafter, the Singapore Airlines issued in a statement, saying it was in "close contact" with Tata Sons and continues to "offer full support and all necessary assistance".

Yuva and Bal Puraskar awardees announced

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Sahitya Akademi on Wednesday announced the names of 23 writers for its 'Yuva Puraskar' and 24 for 'Bal Puraskar' awards.

The Yuva Puraskar awardees include Advait Kottary in English, Parvati Tirkey in Hindi, Latshmihar for Tamil and Prasad Suri for Telugu.

The Bal Sahitya Puraskar will go to Nitin Kushalappa M.P. for English, Sushil Shukla for Hindi, Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay for Bengali, K. Shivalingappa Handihal for Kannada, Vishnupuram Saravanan for Tamil and others.

The winners will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and an award of ₹50,000 at a function on a later date.

Chandigarh tops school education index, Meghalaya comes last: report

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Chandigarh has been adjudged the best performer in school education for the academic year 2023-24, while Meghalaya appears in the lowest rung of the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 report released by the Union Education Ministry on Wednesday.

The States are graded on a wide range of indicators, including learning outcomes and quality, access, infrastructure, equity, governance processes, and teacher education and training, for a total of 1,000 points.

None of the States feature in the top scoring range of 761-1,000, which suggests that there is huge scope for improvement, Ministry officials said. The report shows that 24 States and Union Territories improved their scores in 2023-24 from the previous year's, while the remaining 12 States and Union Territories saw declining scores.

More scope: Twenty-four States & Union Territories improve scores, report says, but no States in the top scoring range. K. MURALI KUMAR

Chandigarh achieved a score of 719, and is the sole State to reach Grade Prachesta-1, for scores between 701 to 760. Ten States and Union Territories – Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Odisha, Kerala, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, Haryana, Goa, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan – have scored between 581 and 640, called Grade Prachesta-3.

At the other end of the scale is Meghalaya, which scored 417, thus falling into the category of scorers between 401 and 460, labelled as Akanshi-3. Other States which have a long way to go to improve the quality of school education are Telangana, Assam, Jharkhand, Tripura, Manipur, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh, which have been put in the Akanshi-2 category, as they have scored between 461 and 520. In the middle ranks are 14 States and Union Territories – Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh – which scored between 521 and 580, labelled Akanshi-1.

Bihar and Telangana have made the highest improvement in access to school education. With regard to the infrastructure domain, Delhi, J&K, Telangana have made highest progress between 2022-23 and 2023-24, officials said.

Air India crash: over 208 victims identified, DNA profiling near-complete

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

DNA profiling had confirmed the identities of 208 victims of the June 12 Air India crash in Ahmedabad, with the authorities inching closer to concluding the identification process, the Gujarat government said on Wednesday. So far, more than 170 bodies, including of over 35 foreign nationals from the U.K., Portugal, and Canada, and six persons killed on the ground, have been handed over to their families, officials said.

The authorities have collected DNA samples from 250 victims, including those on the ground. "Since DNA sample matching is a sensitive process and involves legal aspects, we are conducting it with utmost seriousness and speed," Dr. Rakesh Joshi, Medical Superintendent of Ahmedabad Civil Hospital said. The process has become vital due to the condition of many bodies, which are either charred or mutilated beyond recognition.

The Gujarat government is yet to officially declare the total death toll from the disaster.

A high-level Central committee, led by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, is expected to submit its report within three months, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said.

Sole survivor

Vishwas Kumar Ramesh, the only survivor of the plane tragedy, was discharged on Tuesday evening and subsequently attended his brother's cremation on Wednesday, officials confirmed.

The 40-year-old British national had been undergoing treatment since the air crash that claimed several lives, including that of his brother.

'Long-haul flights to be cut by 15%'

NEW DELHI

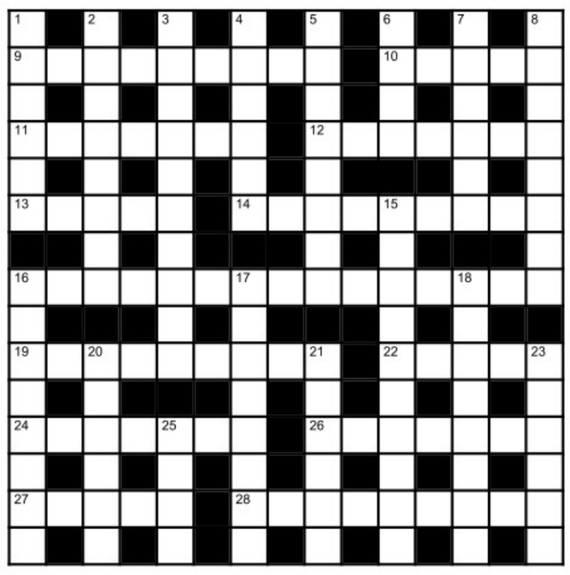
Air India will be cutting down international flights on widebody aircraft that connect long haul and ultra long haul destinations by 15%, the airline said late on Wednesday evening. The decision was taken amid DGCA-ordered enhanced surveillance for Boeing 787 aircraft and rising geopolitical tensions.

TH CROSSWORD + 14515

(set by Gussalufz)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Ailments cured by fourth-grade level (9)
10 Brilliant boy, reportedly (5)
11 Madhya Pradesh engineer boring boss out (7)
12 Dislike a censored translation (7)
13 Alarm starts to interrupt consciousness after short rest in retreat (5)
14 Kitties back calls for jams (9)
16 Casting couch? Lamer film, answer NO? (8,7)
19 Orphan cat chewed up fruit with part of flower attached (9)
22 In public, I duly turned playful (5)
24 One born before one's time, in forlorn eastern empire (7)
26 Seen in disco: "N.B.: Riot with spirit" (3,4)
27 Sneakily get in, see for free (3,2)
28 "Percussion instrument? Play guitar, Richard!" says Spooner (9)

Down

1 Figures unpleasant matter is over after dad loosens up (4,2)
2 Publication of one's opinion getting student ultimately expelled by university (8)
3 Beverage lid and container retracted (counterfeit coin) (10)
4 "ABCD" daughter and son arguing (2,4)
5 Exclude page describing very revolting enemy (5,3)
6 Person at computer hampered by mouse regularly (4)
7 Completion of repair a month away (6)
8 Work out locations of gay man's frolicking around India (8)
15 Bulk of wine trade by ship? (10)
16 Man mates in India, they provide support (8)
17 Spiders are sad in shot (8)
18 Be at the bottom of anguish, essentially, and cross red line (8)
20 What's left of camp after wife's entry? Unknown! (6)
21 "Prepare to leave partnership": U.K. capitulates, partially regressing (4,2)
23 Roosters absorbing first bit of light? They might awaken you alarmingly (6)
25 Pull dramatically, showing cheek in second over (4)

SUDOKU

		1			7			8
7					9		3	
	5					7		1
	4		7	8	1			
		9				8		
			9	3	6		4	
5		4					9	
	2		4					6
1			5			3		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6555 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	A	C	Q	U	I	R	E	D	T	A	S	T	E	
		H		P		A		E		R		I		
T	E	E	T	H		M	E	D	I	C	I	N	A	L
H		D		I		I		U		O		F		I
I	N	D	U	L	G	E	N	C	E		T	O	N	K
N		A		L				T		H		I		E
S	T	R	A	T	U	S		I	N	A	F	L	A	P
K				A		T		O		R				U
I	M	P	A	S	S	E		N	A	R	W	H	A	L
N		I		K		R				U		U		L
N	O	B	S		B	A	R	R	A	M	U	N	D	I
E		R		R		D		A		P		K		N
D	I	O	N	Y	S	I	A	N		H	Y	I	N	G
		C		O		A		C		E		E		
	S	H	O	T	I	N	T	H	E	D	A	R	K	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	5	7	6	1	4	9	2	8
6	9	8	2	5	3	4	1	7
1	2	4	9	7	8	5	3	6
8	7	6	5	3	1	2	9	4
2	4	3	7	8	9	6	5	1
9	1	5	4	6	2	7	8	3
4	3	2	1	9	6	8	7	5
7	6	1	8	2	5	3	4	9
5	8	9	3	4	7	1	6	2

FAITH

Rama, the Supreme One

Vedanta Desika was the author of works in Sanskrit, Tamil and Manipravala. He wrote Achyuta Satakam in Prakrit. In his Raghuveera Gadyam, Desika offers his salutations to Lord Rama as the effulgent One who destroys the darkness called fear, said T.N. Aravamuda Thathachariar in a discourse.

Rama shines because of Sita Devi's constant presence beside Him. He is the One who illuminates Paramapada with His brightness. Desika celebrates Rama as *Jayathi* in his salutation. Why does he begin with the word '*jayathi*'? When Periyazhvar saw Lord Narayana, he was afraid people would cast evil eyes on Him, and that this would harm the Lord. So he sang *pallandu* verses to ward off the evil eyes.

Likewise, Desika, in this verse uses the word *jayathi* to ward off evil eyes. The first choornika of the gadyam also says, "*Jaya Jaya Mahaveera*." Thus the prayer for mangalam and a prayer to keep away all inauspiciousness are there right at the beginning of the work. Vedanta Desika's style is such that some passages are difficult to recite, while some are easy, and Desika himself points this out towards the end of the work. He says some passages are *kaTora* (tough); some are easy (*sukumAra*). Raghuveera Gadyam has 94 choornikas, of which the first two praise Rama the warrior. The third choornika refers to Rama as Deva, showing that Rama is the Supreme One. The Upanishadic statement is '*divyO deva ekO Narayana*,' and Desika reiterates it here by referring to Rama as Deva. The 94 choornikas can be seen in the context of the qualities of Rama as seen in the various kandas of Valmiki Ramayana.

INBRIEF

ICAI to take six months to probe IndusInd Bank, Gensol

Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) president Charanjot Singh Nanda said on Wednesday that their review of the financial statements of Gensol Engineering, BluSmart Mobility and IndusInd Bank would take at least six months. These are presently being evaluated by the Financial Reporting Review Board (FRRB). Should the FRRB determine anything suspicious, the matter would be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for a detailed investigation, he said.

Abbott to distribute MSD's diabetes drug in India

Abbott and MSD Pharmaceuticals have entered into a distribution agreement for MSD's oral anti-diabetic medicine sitagliptin, its combination sitagliptin/metformin and the extended-release version in India. Leveraging its footprint, Abbott said, it will distribute the portfolio. The products are marketed under brand names Januvia, Janumet and Janumet XR, the firms said in a joint statement. Sitagliptin is a Dipeptidyl Peptidase IV Inhibitors used for treatment of Type 2 diabetes.

Tata Elxsi, German chip firm to develop EV solutions for India

Tata Elxsi, a design and technology services company from Tata Group, and Infineon Technologies, a German player in semiconductor solutions, have signed an MoU to jointly develop application-ready EV solutions tailored to the Indian market. This strategic collaboration aligns with India's rapid shift towards electrification, with EV sales growing by 25-30% year-on-year in 2024, including a 28% increase in electric two- and three-wheeler sales, Tata Elxsi said.

'Founders can now hold employee stock options post listing'

SEBI move aimed at increasing ease of doing business; regulator also relaxes norms to allow PSUs with minimal public shareholding to delist

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

In a bid to increase ease of doing business for market participants, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved proposals to allow founders to hold employee stock options even after listing, relax regulations for alternative investment funds (AIF), and allow public sector undertakings (PSUs) with minimal public shareholding to delist, among other actions.

In its board meeting that concluded on Wednesday, the markets regulator said that founders or promoters can now continue to benefit from employee stock options even after listing, if they started receiving them at least one year prior to filing for IPOs.

Aiding reverse flipping

Moreover, compulsory convertible securities (CCS) will be exempted from a minimum shareholding period of one year, akin to equity shares.

This will assist companies contemplating reverse flipping. Reverse flipping is when Indian start-ups, originally incorporated overseas, move their headquarters and ownership back to India. The regulation will now also include relevant persons other than just the founders.

Easing norms: SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey addressing the media in Mumbai on Wednesday. ANI

Category I and II AIFs can now offer co-investment schemes (CIV) to "facilitate AIFs and investors to co invest" and "support capital formation in unlisted companies," according to a statement from SEBI.

This initiative is in addition to the existing opinion for accredited investors to co-invest in unlisted entities through portfolio management system (PMS).

Angel investors

The board also approved proposals to ensure that only angel investors would need to be accredited investors (AI) now.

Moreover, AIs will be included as qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) for the limited purpose of investments into angel funds.

The floor and cap on investments by angel investors has been changed to ₹10 lakh to ₹25 crore.

Earlier, this threshold was ₹25 lakh to ₹10 crore. In addition to these, SEBI also offered settlement opportunity for venture capitalists (VCs) to migrate to AIF regulations.

The markets watchdog has also enabled PSUs, in which the Government of India holds more than 90% stake, to be delisted.

"There are five such companies," SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey said during a briefing.

In addition to these, the regulator also brought in other regulations that relaxed compliance for foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) exclusively investing in G-secs, simplified documents for qualified institutional placements (QIPs), and rationalisation of merchant banking regulations.

India's rice and tea exporters hit by the Iran-Israel conflict

M. Soundariya Preetha
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
COIMBATORE

Shipments of a significant quantity of basmati rice and tea, the two major commodities that are exported from India to Iran, are on hold due to the Iran-Israel conflict, putting exporters on a wait and watch mode.

Iran is the largest market for Indian basmati rice. Of six million tonnes of annual exports 1.2 million tonnes go to Iran.

"All shipments and payments are on hold," said Mohit Gupta, a New Delhi-based rice exporter. "The exporters are talking to officials and hope for a solution in a couple of days.

International price for basmati rice has dropped by $100 a tonne because of the conflict and stocks are beginning to pile up with the exporters," he said.

One of the major exporters of tea said 20,000-25,000 tonnes of tea goes to Iran from India annually, mainly orthodox tea.

"There are withdrawals and drop in price at the auction. Shipments have been stopped and no one knows how the situation will develop, especially with the attacks escalating. Exporters will get the payment only after shipment. Right now, the priority in Iran is for essentials," the exporter said.

B. Rajesh Chander, member of the Tea Board India, said many of those operating to Iran did not take part in the auctions on

International price for basmati rice is said to have dropped by $100 a tonne. FILE PHOTO

Wednesday. "There is fear that exports to countries such as Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan may also get affected in the future if the conflict continues," he said.

Officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will meet stakeholders from the trade, shipping, and export-oriented sectors on Friday to discuss the problems they are facing due to the Israel-Iran conflict, and how the government could help address these issues.

Sources said the Commerce Ministry had sought information and feedback from exporters on the extent of impact due to the Iran-Israel tensions, how they were accommodating these factors, and their expectations.

While these inputs are coming in, exporters had said that air freight costs had already increased and sea freight costs too were expected to go up. They have also factored in a surge in fuel costs and risk insurance premiums.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,445	-0.17
US Dollar	86.43	-0.10
Gold	1,00,710	0.53
Brent oil	75.77	0.89

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2459.10	-29.40
Adani Ports	1372.60	-19.70
Apollo Hosp	6933.50	-73.00
Asian Paints	2281.40	16.60
Axis Bank	1221.00	5.90
Bajaj Auto	8468.00	-26.50
Bajaj Finserv	1981.40	-21.90
Bajaj Finance	919.00	-4.00
Bharat Elec	400.50	-1.25
Bharti Airtel	1865.90	11.10
Cipla	1498.10	-5.40
Coal India	390.35	-0.95
Dr Reddys Lab	1313.30	-5.50
Eicher Motors	5393.00	52.00
Eternal Ltd.	248.41	1.16
Grasim Ind	2675.40	4.00
HCL Tech	1715.90	-13.70
HDFC Bank	1933.90	4.30
HDFC Life	766.20	-7.75
Hero MotoCorp	4357.90	-13.10
Hindalco	645.35	3.65
Hind Unilever	2297.30	-31.30
ICICI Bank	1412.60	-10.60
IndusInd Bank	850.50	41.35
Infosys	1632.90	-7.00
ITC	415.90	-1.50
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	288.15	-1.65
JSW Steel	986.35	-13.30
Kotak Bank	2132.40	-4.40
L&T	3601.50	-20.80
M&M	3041.10	33.90
Maruti Suzuki	12748.00	153.00
NestleIndia	2340.80	-21.20
NTPC	332.40	-2.80
ONGC	250.36	-1.95
PowerGrid Corp	287.30	-1.25
Reliance Ind	1430.10	-1.10
SBI Life	1797.20	-3.00
State Bank	791.90	-0.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	662.10	-2.90
Sun Pharma	1648.00	-2.20
TataConsumerProduct	1065.20	-6.40
Tata Motors	670.25	-4.50
Tata Steel	152.11	-0.49
TCS	3451.40	-63.90
Tech Mahindra	1710.70	-7.90
Titan	3467.80	62.10
Trent Ltd.	5735.00	108.50
UltraTech Cement	11406.00	23.00
Wipro	261.59	-1.32

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.28	86.60
Euro	99.30	99.67
British Pound	116.11	116.54
Japanese Yen (100)	59.57	59.79
Chinese Yuan	12.00	12.05
Swiss Franc	105.59	105.99
Singapore Dollar	67.15	67.41
Canadian Dollar	63.18	63.44
Malaysian Ringitt	20.28	20.39
Australian Dollar	56.09	56.30

Source:Indian Bank

Dassault, Reliance ally for making Falcon 2000 business jets

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

French maker of military aircraft and business jets, Dassault Aviation and Reliance Infrastructure subsidiary, Reliance Aerostructure Ltd. (RAL) announced a strategic partnership to make Falcon 2000 business executive jets in India for global markets with final assembly line at Nagpur in Maharashtra.

The first flight of the 'Made in India' Falcon 2000 is likely in 2028. This was announced at the week-long Paris Air Show.

Dassault Aviation will make these jets outside of France for the first time, a joint press statement said.

This announcement "will see India emerge as a strategic centre for high-end business jet manufacturing and paves way for India's entry into the elite club of countries making next-generation business jets alongside U.S., France, Canada and Brazil."

The joint venture, DRAL, will also become a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Falcon series, including Falcon 6X and Falcon 8X assembly programmes for Dassault Aviation, the first such CoE outside France.

Dassault Aviation will also transfer the assembly of the front section of Falcon 8X and Falcon 6X, in addition to the wings and complete fuselage assembly of Falcon 2000 to DRAL.

"This collaboration is a powerful expression of our commitment to PM Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India for the World' initiative," said Anil D. Ambani, founder-chairman, Reliance Group.

Aeronautical Development Agency
(Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
PB No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017

Ref No: ADA/AMCA/FSED/EOI/01-2025 Date: 18-06-2025

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) invites sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) from experienced Indian Companies for undertaking "Development of Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)". The applicant may be a single Company, Joint Venture or a Consortium of companies compliant with the EOI requirements, all applicable Indian Laws & Regulations.

The objectives, procedure and other details of EOI are available on ADA website (https://www.ada.gov.in) and DefProc portal (https://defproc.gov.in). The EOI document is to be obtained on payment basis. A Pre-EOI meeting for the parties who have purchased the EOI document will be scheduled in 1st week of July 2025.

Interested parties can furnish their Expression of Interest quoting reference No. ADA/AMCA/FSED/EOI/01-2025 on or before 16th August 2025, Time: 05.00 pm to the following address:

Director (Materials Management),
Aeronautical Development Agency,
P.B. No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017.

The responses received after the due date & time will be treated as late submission and will not be considered. Response to be submitted in hardcopy only either to be deposited in the tender box at ADA or sent by Speed Post only.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER - 2nd CALL (Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible tenderers for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender EMD
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/491/2025-26		Date: 18.06.2025
1.	Work of Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Dredge Pumps, CMMS, 15 Kwp* 5 Set Solar Roof Top Power Plant,UV Disinfection at Nagasandra Phase-I coming under AEE(WWM-STP-H&A.2) Sub-division.	Rs. 163.36 Lakhs / Rs. 2.4 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/493/2025-26		Date: 18.06.2025
2.	Work of Supply of Helicoidal Screw conveyor and Helicoidal Inbuilt washing compactor, Computer Maintenance Management System & Modem for Data Connectivity KSPCB Server at Hebbal 100 MLD coming under AEE(WWM-STP-H&A.1) Sub-division.	Rs. 314.48 Lakhs / Rs. 5.57 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/495/2025-26		Date: 18.06.2025
3.	Improvement work of installation of Trash rack and Macerators at 60 MLD Kengeri UWTP under JHA Funds coming under AEE(WWM-STP)V.V-1 Sub-division.	Rs. 286.41 Lakhs / Rs. 4.29 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/497/2025-26		Date: 18.06.2025
4.	Improvement work of installing of dredging pump, Multi raked coarse bar screen, installation of Macerators and Solar panels and implementation of CMMS software at 20 MLD Doddabele UWTP under JHA Funds coming under AEE(WWM-STP)V.V-1 Sub-division.	Rs. 316.93 Lakhs / Rs. 4.75 Lakhs

For all above works, last date for submission of completed tender documents is on: **03.07.2025 upto 16:00Hrs.** The Tenders will be opened on: **04.07.2025 at 17:00Hrs.** Sd/- Chief Engineer(WWM-West).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/RA/1322/2025-26

Why Men Shouldn't Skip That All-Important Health Check

When was the last time you had a health check? If you're like most Indian men, the answer might be "never" or "I was forced to". Truth: Serious health conditions are quietly brewing in many men – and showing up far earlier than they used to.

Non-communicable diseases are now hitting Indian men in their 30s and 40s, not in their late 50s (as most believe). The scariest part? Many of these issues have no symptoms in the early stages. Fortunately, a comprehensive health check that goes beyond the basics and offers advanced testing can make a difference.

Here are a few NCDs that affect men primarily, and the latest tests available:

1. Heart Disease

Even if you feel perfectly fine, your heart may feel otherwise. Men aged 45+ are 28% more likely to have heart disease than women of the same age. According to the Apollo Health of the Nation 2025 report, of the 3,000+ people (with no history of heart issues) evaluated for heart health, 58% had no symptoms. Of these, 46% had calcium deposits in their heart arteries – an early sign of atherosclerosis (heart blockage). 2.5% of these were under 40.

What to do: Go beyond ECG and cholesterol. There are more advanced tests like **Apolipoprotein A1 & B, high-sensitivity C-reactive Protein, and Coronary Calcium Scoring with low-dose CT** (which measures plaque deposits).

"What to do: Choose a health check that includes a vitamin panel."

Dr. Shreevidya
Medical Director
Apollo Preventive Health Check

2. Fatty Liver

Fatty liver is no longer an alcoholic-only health concern. With the rise in obesity, diabetes and high cholesterol, metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver is now common among men. The report showed that of 2.5 lakh people screened, 65% had fatty liver, but 52% of them had normal liver enzymes.

What to do: Blood tests are not enough. Always include an **abdominal ultrasound.** For higher risk individuals, ask for a **FibroScan** to check for liver stiffness and early scarring.

3. Vitamin D and B12 Deficiency

You may not expect it, but 82% of men were found to be Vitamin D deficient, and 38% had low B12. These deficiencies, thought to affect women typically, can lead to tiredness, poor bone health, memory issues, and nerve damage.

What to do: Personalise your health check to include a **vitamin panel** or choose one that has it.

4. Cancers

Men are at higher risk for certain cancers, especially lung, oral and prostate cancers. Indian men tend to be diagnosed younger, often in their 50s, and late detection affects treatment success.

What to do:

- If you're a smoker (past or present), a **low-dose CT** is preferred for early lung cancer detection.
- For men above 50, a **PSA test** is mandatory.
- Regular **oral cavity screening** is key for tobacco users.

Final Thought

Waiting for symptoms to show up is like waiting for the fire alarm after your house has already burnt down. What you need is not just a routine health check, but one that looks deeper – with latest blood tests, advanced imaging, and assessment for mental health, sleep and cognitive function! Choose wisely.

Scan to read Apollo's Health of the Nation 2025 report

Apollo ProHealth PRESENTS
Sincerely, Your Doctor
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HINDU

A preventive healthcare initiative by **Apollo ProHealth** and **The Hindu**

Have questions for our doctors?
WhatsApp us at 89392 83283
or email us at sincerelyyourdoctor@thehindu.co.in
with your name, city and query.

JERUSALEM

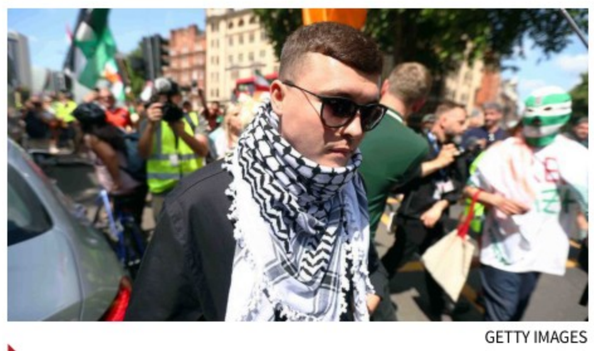
Israeli drone operating over Iran downed by surface-to-air missile

AFP

The Israeli military said one of its drones had been downed while operating over Iran, the first such loss it has acknowledged since the start of hostilities last week. The drone had gone down in Iran after being hit by a surface-to-air missile. "No injuries were reported and there is no risk of an information breach," a statement read. AFP

LONDON

Kneecap rapper in court on terror charge over Hezbollah flag



GETTY IMAGES

A rapper with provocative Irish group Kneecap appeared in court on Wednesday charged with a terror offence for allegedly supporting Hezbollah. Liam O'Hanna, 27, known by his stage name Mo Chara, was charged in May after being accused of displaying a Hezbollah flag during a London concert in November. AFP

AFGHANISTAN

Smartphones banned from schools in Taliban heartland

AFP

A ban on smartphones in schools issued by Taliban authorities in southern Afghanistan came into force, students and teachers said on Wednesday, over concerns of "focus" and "Islamic law". The directive by officials in Kandahar applies to students, teachers and administrative staff in schools and religious schools. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. top court upholds ban on gender-affirming care for minors

AP

The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld a State law banning gender-affirming medical treatments for transgender minors. The top court voted 6-3 to uphold a law in the southern State of Tennessee which bans hormone therapy, puberty blockers and gender transition surgery for those under the age of 18. AFP

'May do it, may not do it', says Trump about joining Israel's strikes on Iran

The U.S. President says Iran had reached out for talks, even suggesting to send officials to the White House in an attempt to end Israel's air assault; Pete Hegseth says Pentagon is providing possible options to Trump as he decides next steps on Iran

Agence France-Presse
Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said he was considering on Wednesday whether the United States would join Israeli strikes on Iran and said that Tehran had reached out to seek negotiations on ending the conflict.

Speaking as he watched installation of a new flagpole at the White House, Mr. Trump added that his patience "had already run out" with Iran.

"I may do it, I may not do it. I mean, nobody knows what I'm going to do," Mr. Trump told reporters on the South Lawn when asked if he had decided whether to launch U.S. air strikes.

Trading blows: Smoke rises following an Israeli attack in Tehran in Iran on Wednesday. REUTERS

Mr. Trump said Iran had even suggested sending officials to the White House for talks on Tehran's nuclear programme in a bid to end Israel's air assault, but added that it was "very late."

"I said it's very late to be talking. We may meet. There's a big difference between now and a week ago, right? Big difference," Mr. Trump added. "They have suggested that they come to the White House. That's, you know, courageous, but it's, like, not easy for them to do."

When asked if it was too late for negotiations, he said: "Nothing is too late."

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth told lawmakers on Wednesday that the Pentagon was providing possible options to President Trump as he decides next steps on Iran, but would not say whether the military was planning to assist with Israeli strikes.

In questioning before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Mr. Hegseth said "maximum force protection" was being provided for U.S. troops in West Asia and that it is Mr. Trump's decision whether to provide Israel a "bunker buster" bomb to strike at the core of Iran's nuclear programme, which would require U.S. pilots flying a B-2 stealth bomber. He would not indicate what the U.S. may do next.

Israeli fire kills 30 in Gaza; troops raid West Bank camps

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Gaza's civil defence agency said 30 people were killed by Israeli fire in the Palestinian territory on Wednesday, including 11 who were seeking aid.

The war sparked by Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel has ravaged the Gaza Strip, with severe shortages of food, fuel and clean water.

The civil defence spokesman said 11 persons were killed and more than 100 wounded "after the occupation forces opened fire and launched several shells... at thousands of citizens" who had gathered to queue for food in central Gaza.

The Army said it was looking into the incident reported by the civil defence agency.

Boys at the funeral of a Palestinian man in Gaza City on Wednesday, killed a day earlier in Israeli fire while seeking food aid. AFP

Israeli troops raided two Palestinian refugee camps in the occupied West Bank's north overnight, the military said, as Israel presses offensives on multiple fronts.

The military said that at "around 4:00 am Israeli forces entered Balata camp", near the northern city of Nablus, for "a routine counter-terrorism operation". It added that the troops had been deployed to the nearby Askar camp prior to the operation in Balata camp.

Marked by Trump's absence, G-7 backs Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
KANANASKIS

Group of Seven leaders on Tuesday vowed greater support for Ukraine but stopped short of joint condemnation of Russia for its growing attacks, at a summit missing Donald Trump.

The U.S. President had been due to speak at the G-7 summit with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy, but flew back on Monday over the Israel-Iran conflict.

Mr. Zelenskyy met the remaining leaders at a remote lodge in the Canadian Rockies.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced Can$2 billion ($1.47billion) of military support for Ukraine.

Iran is well within rights to defend itself: Erdogan

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday that Iran had the "legitimate" right to defend itself in the face of Israel's ongoing bombing campaign, now in its sixth day.

"It is a very natural, legitimate and legal right for Iran to defend itself against Israel's thuggery and state terrorism," the Turkish leader said.

"All our institutions are on high alert regarding the possible effects of these attacks on Turkiye," Mr. Erdogan said.

As Trump changes tune, Vance steps in to defend the U.S. President's Iran policy

Stanly Johny

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance stepped in to defend Donald Trump's Iran policy on Tuesday after the U.S. President ruled out a call for a ceasefire and dramatically escalated his anti-Iran rhetoric, triggering speculation that the U.S. would get directly involved in Israel's war against Iran.

"We now have complete and total control of the skies over Iran," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post, after saying he was not looking for a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, but a complete end to the conflict. In a direct threat to Iran's leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Mr. Trump said "We know exactly where the so-called "Supreme Leader" is hiding. We are not going to take him out (kill!), at least not for now. But we don't want missiles shot at civilians, or American soldiers. Our patience is wearing thin".

J.D. Vance

Shifting stance

Israel launched the war on June 13, three days ahead of a scheduled talk between Iran and Mr. Trump's negotiation team on Tehran's nuclear programme, in Muscat, Oman. Even after the war started, Mr. Trump had said he was open to a deal with Iran. But when the crisis escalated following Israeli strikes and Iran's counter-attacks with ballistic missiles and drones, Mr. Trump demanded on Tuesday an "unconditional surrender" from Tehran. His posts came amid reports in the U.S. media that Israel was pressing Mr. Trump to join the war.

During the election campaign, Mr. Trump and Mr. Vance repeatedly criticised the wars launched by previous American Presidents. Mr. Vance, a vocal critic of America's 2003 Iraq war, wrote in a social media post on Tuesday that "The president has made clear that Iran cannot have uranium enrichment. And he said repeatedly that this would happen one of two ways – the easy way or the "other" way."

Opposition from MAGA

Within Mr. Trump's rightwing MAGA base, there is opposition to America's entanglement in yet another war in West Asia. "Anyone slobbering for the U.S. to become fully involved in the Israel/Iran war is not America First/MAGA," Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Republican Congresswoman and a vocal advocate of Mr. Trump, wrote in a social media post on June 16. "The neocon warmongers are all about fighting a proxy war with Russia in Ukraine, fighting Iran for Israel, and protecting Taiwan from China," she said on Wednesday. Tucker Carlson, the former *Fox News* host and a popular conservative voice, called Mr. Trump "complicit in the act of war."

Mr. Vance said, referring to Iran's enrichment of uranium to 60% purity: "I have yet to see a single good argument for why Iran needed to enrich uranium well above the threshold for civilian use". The 2015 nuclear agreement signed between Iran and world powers, including the U.S., had allowed Iran to enrich uranium at a lower level for civilian purposes.

Iran had been fully compliant with the terms of the agreement until Mr. Trump, in his first term as President, unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the agreement in 2018. Iran restarted uranium enrichment beyond the allowed threshold after the U.S. reimposed sanctions on Tehran.

Mr. Vance's comments came amid reports that Israeli officials were pushing Mr. Trump to join the war. Israel is running low on defensive arrow interceptors, a U.S. official told *The Wall Street Journal*.

According to another report, Israel is asking the U.S. to join the war because Israel lacks the bunker buster bombs that could destroy Iran's most fortified nuclear plant in Fordow.

"The President has shown remarkable restraint in keeping our military's focus on protecting our troops and protecting our citizens. He may decide he needs to take further action to end Iranian enrichment. That decision ultimately belongs to the President," Mr. Vance said.

"And having seen this up close and personal, I can assure you that he is only interested in using the American military to accomplish the American people's goals. Whatever he does, that is his focus," he added.

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES ZONE, UDAIPUR
Near Akashvani, Chetak Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan) 313001
Phone no.: 0294-2414794 Email:- aceudaipur2019@gmail.com
No. ACE/Actt.-III/F. /2025-26/4827 Dated :- 09.06.2025
E-NIT No. 03/2025-26
(NIB Code:-WRD2526A0129)
Bids for the following work are invited from interested bidders upto 6:00 PM, dated 02-07-2025

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated. Cost of Work (Rs. In lacs)
1.	Arch Covering work of Ummedsagar Dam RMC from Kumawat Hostel RD 4000 m to 6940 m Tail Jahazpur road Tehsil-Shahpura, District-Bhilwara	623.48

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/ wrd

UBN:- (WRD2526WLOB00335) **Additional Chief Engineer**
DIPR/C/7816/2025 **Water Resources Zone, Udaipur**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत-हनुमानगढ़
क्रमांकः- दिनांकः 05.06.2025
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 07/2025-26
इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत हनुमानगढ़ के अधीन सड़क निर्माण कार्य (मय पांच/दस वर्ष के दोष निवारण व सुधार अवधि) हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें दिनांक 30.06.2025 सायं 6.00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त निविदा से सम्बन्धित पूर्ण विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** व विभागीय वेबसाईट **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखे जा सकते हैं। कार्य की कुल लागत 2352.23 लाख है।
कार्य का एन.आई.बी. नं.:- PWD2526A1126
यू.बी.एन नं.:- PWD2526WSOB03774, PWD2526WSOB03779, PWD2526WSOB03780, PWD2526WSOB03783, PWD2526WSOB03784, PWD2526WSOB03785, PWD2526WSOB03786
DIPR/C/7704/2025 **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत हनुमानगढ़**

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, जयपुर क्षेत्र- द्वितीय, गांधी नगर, जयपुर
ई-मेलः ace.region2jaipur@yahoo.com, फोन नं.: 0141-2702700
क्रमांकः अ.मु.अ. क्षे-2/2025-26/2858-80 दिनांकः 05.06.2025
निविदा सूचना
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से "**Work of strengthening and Improvement of Water supply Distribution Network in the Jurisdiction of Jaipur Nagar Nigam Greater under AMRUT 2.0 District- Jaipur**" कार्य हेतु जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया द्वारा निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत निविदा एवं निविदा प्रपत्र www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

क्र.सं.	एन.आई.बी.	यू.बी.एन. कोड	निविदा संख्या
1	PHE2526A1587	PHE2526WLOB03248	04/2025-26

DIPR/C/7682/25 **(शुभाँशु दीक्षित) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता**
जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, जयपुर क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, जयपुर

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
H.O.: Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14, (Tele No. 0471 2945600, FAX : 0471 2945647),
E-mail :qc.kmscl@kerala.gov.in, website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in
CIN: U24233KL2007SGC021616
No. KMSCL/QC/3241/2025 Date : 19.06.2025
EMPANELMENT OF NABL APPROVED DRUGS TESTING LABORATORIES
INVITATION OF EOI
The Kerala Medical Services Corporation invites Expression of Interest for 'Empanelment of NABL approved Drugs Testing Laboratory' for the year 2025-27 for testing of Drugs & supplies

Sl no:	EOI no.	Date & Time of pre-offer meeting	Last date and Time of receipt of offers	Date and Time of opening of the offers
1.	KMSCL/QC/ EOI/2025/01	26.06.2025 11.00am	21.07.2025 02.30 pm	21.07.2025 03.00 pm

The EOI document can be downloaded from the official website of the Corporation www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (EOI Inviting Authority)

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Building Section)
Tel.No.: (0240) 2333536-40
Fax.No. : (0240) 2331213
Address: Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Executive Engineer (Building Section)
Head office: Town Hall, Pin No. 431001
E-Tender Call AMC (For Help) : Cell No. 9922509697
Out.No/AMC/EE/Bldg./108/2025 Date: 18/06/2025

Sr. No.	Work name	Last date of tender submission
1	Development of south pavilion Building and Approach road (Phase-1) at Garware stadium Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. **Tender ID 2025_AMCA_1153064_4** **(Amount put to Tender : Rs.39,16,79,410/-)**	12/07/2025

Note :- For the above started work is available on web site www.mahatenders.gov.in
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Building Section)
Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

Kolkata Municipal Corporation
Sustainability, Hygiene and Resilience Project (KMC-SHARP)
Expression of Interest (EOI)
Project Director, KMC-SHARP on behalf of **KMC** invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed consultancy firms/organizations having extensive financial audit including internal audit experience in externally aided/funded projects/Govt. funded projects in infrastructure including water supply, roads, drainages, septage/sanitation/waste management contract package/assignments to be executed for **"Kolkata Municipal Corporation- Sustainability, Hygiene, and Resilience (Sector) Project (KMC-SHARP)"** undertaken for expansion of Sewerage & Drainage & Development of Solid Waste Management facilities ensuring climate resilience for Kolkata.
Interested firms/organizations should submit their EOI proposals through e-submission in **http://csm.adb.org** on or before **18.07.2025 (15:00 hrs. IST)**. All relevant details are available at **http://csrn.adb.org** (click on India, find captioned project, click on view and download **"TOR document"**) or **www.keiip.in** or **www.kmcgov.in**

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through KPP portal)
BESCOM invite tenders for Execution of Capital and Revenue Budget Works (Action Plan Works) under item wise unit rate fixed contract for a period of Two years on Partial Turnkey (Major Materials will be supplied by BESCOM) under percentage quoting basis in the following Divisions of BRAZ and CTAZ, BESCOM.

Sl. No.	Name of the Division	Tender Enquiry No
1	Tumkur	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT450
2	Tiptur	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT451
3	Madhugiri	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT452
4	Kunigal	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT453
5	Davanagere	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT454
6	Harihara	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT455
7	Hiriyur	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT456
8	Chitradurga	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT457
9	Ramanagar	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT458
10	Kanakpura	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT459
11	Magadi	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT460
12	Chandapura	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT461
13	Hosakote	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT462
14	Nelmangala	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT463
15	Kolar	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT464
16	KGF	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT465
17	Chinthamani	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT466
18	Chikkaballapura	BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT467

Availability of Bid documents: 24.06.2025 @ 11:00 Hrs onwards. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 24.07.2025 @ 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bids:** 25.07.2025 @ 15:30 Hrs. **Last date for seeking clarifications:** 09.07.2025 @ 11:00 Hrs. **Pre-bid Meeting:** 10.07.2025 @ 11:30 Hrs. **Venue:** Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, Belaku Bhavana, BESCOM, Corporate Office, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-01.
The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
KPP portal Help Desk: Phone No: +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777; **E-mail:** support@eprochelpdesk.com
Aspiring bidders should be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the KPP during working hours.
Sd/-
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
Chief General Manager, Electy., Projects, BESCOM

RARING TO GO

Stokes fit and ready to don full all-rounder's role again

GETTY IMAGES

Ben Stokes, who has taken up a reduced bowling load in recent times because of injuries, said he was ready to don the full all-rounder's role. "I am 34 and I have played a lot of cricket. So [injuries] are not unthinkable. I bowl, bat and field. So I do quite a lot. But I have worked very hard. I am absolutely raring to go."

ALL SET

Kohli's absence won't render Test series any less intense: Stokes

AFP

England captain Ben Stokes said the absence of Virat Kohli will not render the action less intense. "We all know what Virat brought to the game... performance-wise, energy, theatre. But in terms of taking away the competitiveness, the players are representing India and England. So the absence is not going to take away anything".

BRING IT ON

Playing Test cricket in England exciting and enjoyable: Rahul

FILE PHOTO

Playing Test cricket here (in England) excites me. The English summer is different from what we get back home, it's something that I enjoy. When the sun is out it's great to play cricket. The third thing is the options for restaurants and food — K.L. Rahul, senior India batter.

TRUE WICKET

England wants a good surface to hit through the line: Leeds curator

AP

"They (England) just want to have a good surface so it's true, so we can hit through the line of the ball. That's really what they're looking for," Richard Robsinon, head of grounds at Leeds. Robinson added that he expects the pitch to aid the fast bowlers on the opening day before flattening out due to the expected heat.

Team India embarks on a new red-ball era in Old Blighty

Gill & Co. aim for a first series win in England since 2007; the five-match affair will be a searing examination of endurance and concentration levels for both sides; the visitor's recent form in the longer format leaves a lot to be desired

INDIA IN ENGLAND

N. Sudarshan
LEEDS

Big Three: Pant, Kuldeep and Jadeja will be crucial to India's fortunes in the series. GETTY IMAGES

Sporting transitions are often intimidating and discomforting. Personnel change, demands shift, goals are reset and targets revised. In cricket, where captains often mould teams in their own image, a change at the helm brings about an entire identity switch.

Tricky phase

Navigating this in-between phase is tricky, for the feeling of unease and apprehension can mess with the strongest of minds. Fail, and the critics will yearn for the stars from the bygone period. Succeed, and there will be over-the-top praise in the superlative. As far as acid tests go, this ranks among the toughest.

It is this nervous and unforgiving space that India finds itself in.

The first of five Test matches against England starting here at Headingley on Friday marks the beginning of a fresh World Test Championship cycle for both sides and the wise men of Indian cricket have placed their complete trust in 25-year-old Shubman Gill – set to be India's 37th Test captain – to dispel the anxiety and kick-start a brand new red-ball era.

This is no ordinary transition. Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and R. Ashwin – three of India's greatest match-winners – are no longer there.

Shuffling roster

Mohammed Shami isn't fit and even the genius of Jasprit Bumrah is at the mercy of his body. Gill's own numbers – 1893 runs from 32 Tests at 35.05 – are far from great.

The Champions Trophy victory in March might be the most recent memory of the National team, but the fact remains that India is coming in after back-to-back series defeats in whites - against New Zealand at home (0-3) and Australia away (1-3).

The last time it lost two on the trot was when it lost four on the trot to South Africa, New Zealand, England and Australia from December 2013 to January 2015.

India is also looking for its first series triumph in England since 2007. Since that 1-0 success under Rahul Dravid, India has gone 0-4, 1-3 and 1-4 on three subsequent tours to the Old Blighty.

Brush with Bazball

The most recent sojourn in 2021-22, where it came within touching distance of a victory (2-2), was India's first brush with Bazball, the aggressive style introduced by coach Brendon McCullum.

The fifth Test of that series was postponed by nearly a year to July 2022 because of a Covid outbreak, and under McCullum's stewardship and Ben Stokes' leadership, England chased down 378 in Birmingham to record a famous win.

To replicate this approach, England needs pitches to be relatively flat. But that may disincentivise its largely inexperienced bowling line-up – but for Chris Woakes and Stokes – which may be looking at the turf for some help.

However, the fickle English weather and the Dukes ball's pronounced seam, which makes the cherry wobbly all day, keep all bowlers in play.

Huge test

A five-match series is also a searing examination of endurance and concentration levels. Modern-day Tests may be shorter and teams may be needing fewer overs to bundle out the opposition, but a lot of the cricket is explosive and strenuous.

Maintaining fitness and mental sharpness across 50 days is no joke.

Of course, the beauty of longest format is that players and teams can occasionally afford to drift in and out of a contest like in a best-of-five-sets tennis match.

But as the recent Roland-Garros final proved, victory will always belong to the most tenacious.

We are really happy with where our bowling is: Stokes

N. Sudarshan

Time to step up: Rookie pacer Tongue will have an important role to play in the absence of Archer. GETTY IMAGES

For English cricket, 2025-26 will be a litmus test. The twin five-match series – first against India starting in Leeds on Friday and the second the Ashes in Australia later this year – present the biggest challenge for Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes ever since the coach-captain duo heralded the Bazball era of high-risk, high-reward cricket.

It is thus a pity that England heads to Headingley with one of its least experienced bowling line-ups in recent memory, with James Anderson now retired and Jofra Archer injured. In fact, bowlers outside of Chris Woakes and Stokes have played a grand total of 26 Tests, of which lanky off-spinner Shoaib Bashir's tally is 16.

"That's not an issue," insisted Stokes in the lead-up. "Guys have to start their international journey at some point. We have got a crop of bowlers who have an unbelievable amount of talent. Experience sometimes gets massively thought about and looked at. At the end of the day, it is your skills that [matter].

"It's five matches... so at some point the dynamics of the line-up will change. But we are really happy with where our bowling is. We know what we want – points of difference and not the same thing throughout. You need that X-factor," he said.

The bowling line-up can ease up a bit, for legends in Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have now retired, but Stokes was mindful of the unending pipeline of talented Indian batters.

"The depth that India has in its batting department is incredible! Whoever comes in place of Virat and Rohit are going to be quality players. The two are a big miss for India, but we won't be viewing it as something that is going to be easier than it would normally be."

India does have a trump card in maverick pacer Jasprit Bumrah, but Stokes said that England was up for the challenge.

"No fear," he declared. "In international cricket, you come up against quality opposition all the time. We know his class and what he brings to any team he plays for, but in terms of fear, definitely not. "I don't think one bowler alone is going to win the series for either team. All 11 [players] have to stand up. I don't think there is just one person in either team holding the key to success."

England XI for first Test: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (Capt.), Jamie Smith (wk), Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Josh Tongue, Shoaib Bashir.

(Watch India's tour of England live on Sony Sports Ten 1 and Sony Sports Ten 5 channels from June 20).

Gill will bat at No. 4 and I will walk in at No. 5, says Pant

Press Trust of India
LEEDS

Camaraderie: Pant says he gels well with Gill on and off the field. GETTY IMAGES

India vice-captain Rishabh Pant on Wednesday confirmed that Shubman Gill will bat at No. 4 in the Test series against England, while he will follow the skipper at the No. 5 slot.

"I think there is still discussion going on about who is going to play 3. But 4, 5 are definitely fixed. I think Shubman is going to bat at 4 and I am going to stick to No. 5 as of now, and rest we are going to keep on discussing that," he said.

Pant said he maintains a wonderful relationship with Gill on and off the field.

"I think me and Shubman have a really good camaraderie off the field. If you're good friends off the field, it eventually comes on the field as well. That is something I've always believed," he noted.

"Me and him, we gel really well together. We keep on having conversations and the kind of comfort zone we have with each other, I think that is really going to be special for us."

Relief

Pant said it was a relief to see the legendary fast bowling duo of James Anderson and Stuart Broad missing from England line-up but was not ready to underestimate the current bunch. "Definitely, it feels so good when both (Anderson and Broad) are not there. Because coming from the last two tours, they've been there for England for so many years and I've only come for two tours. At the same time, England has enough ammunition in its bowling line-up.

"We don't want to take anyone lightly because our team is also young. They're still looking to develop themselves.

"But at the same time, we've got to play our cricket and respect the bowlers and opposition where it needs it," he explained.

Man City eases past Wydad; Inter Milan held by Monterrey

CLUB WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
PHILADELPHIA

All action man: Doku, left, leaps high to knock in City's second against Wydad. GETTY IMAGES

Phil Foden scored inside two minutes to set Manchester City on the way to a comfortable 2-0 win against Wydad Casablanca in their opening match at the Club World Cup on Wednesday.

Jeremy Doku was also on target before half-time at the Lincoln Financial Field, where the majority of the 37,446 crowd were supporting City but most of the noise was made by the fans of the Moroccan side.

The afternoon was slightly marred for City as Rico Lewis was sent off for a dangerous tackle late on, but Pep Guardiola will be satisfied to see his team get off to a winning start.

Tougher tests await than that provided by the team that finished third in the Moroccan league, with the English club next facing Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates before it completes its Group G engagements against Juventus.

On Tuesday, Inter Milan was held to a 1-1 draw against Monterrey in its Group E opener in Pasadena.

Argentine striker Lautaro Martinez scored a well-worked equaliser to cancel out Sergio Ramos's opener for Monterrey in a hard-fought tussle in front of 40,311 fans at the Rose Bowl.

River Plate overcame a spirited Urawa Red Diamonds 3-1 on Tuesday to make a strong start in Group E.

In Orlando, Mamelodi Sundowns got off to a winning start with a 1-0 victory over South Korean side Ulsan HD on Tuesday in a match delayed by a weather warning and played before largely empty stands.

The results:

Group E: River Plate 3 (Colidio 12, Driussi 48, Meza 73) bt Urawa Red Diamonds 1 (Matsuo 58-pen); Monterrey 1 (Ramos 25) drew with Inter Milan 1 (Martinez 42).

Group F: Ulsan HD 0 lost to Mamelodi Sundowns 1 (Rayners 36).

Group G: Manchester City 2 (Foden 2, Doku 42) bt Wydad Casablanca 0.

SNAPSHOTS

Velavan enters quarterfinals

KUCHING (MALAYSIA): Velavan Senthilkumar kept India's hopes alive at the Asian squash championships after entering the quarterfinals on Wednesday. Velavan beat Japan's Tomotaka Endo 11-3, 11-1, 11-4 in his round-of-16 clash. He had defeated China's Li Haizhen 11-1, 11-6, 11-1 in the previous round on Tuesday.
Suraj Chand, who beat Athbi Hamad of UAE 11-6, 11-9, 11-7 in the previous round, exited in the pre-quarterfinals after losing to World No. 86 Ameeshenraj Chandaran of Malaysia 11-5, 3-11, 4-11, 3-11.
Pooja Arthi Raghu lost 7-11, 9-11, 2-11 against Singapore's Au Yeong Wai Yhann in the women's singles second round.
Akanksha Salunkhe and Shameena Riaz also exited in the second round after receiving first-round byes.
Salunkhe was stunned by Malaysia's Whitney Isabelle Wilson while Riaz was shown the door by Akari Midorikawa of Japan.

Indian u-23 team goes down to Tajikistan in friendly

TURSUNZODA: The Indian men's under-23 football team suffered a heartbreaking 2-3 defeat to Tajikistan in a friendly on Wednesday. In a dramatic finish, Tajikistan scored twice in the additional six minutes, to stun the Indian colts.
The result: Tajikistan 3 (Khabibov 59, Davlatov 90+1, Azizboev 90+5) bt India 2 (Suhail 34, Gogoi 85).

Indian women suffer reverses in FIH Pro League

LONDON: After bouncing back to draw level 2-2, the Indian women's hockey team missed out on the bonus point, going down 0-2 to Argentina in the shootout in a FIH Hockey Pro League match on Wednesday. The Indians had suffered a 1-4 loss to the same opposition on Tuesday.
The results:
Argentina 2 (Agustina Gorzelany 27, 37) drew with India 2 (Navneet 50, Deepika 60).
Argentina won 2-0 in shootout.
On Tuesday: Argentina 4 (Falasco 29, Gorzelany 40, 54, 59) bt India 1 (Deepika 30).

INBRIEF

Former champion Kvitova gets wild card for Wimbledon

Petra Kvitova is returning to Wimbledon after the 2011 and 2014 champion was awarded a wild card on Wednesday for this year's tournament. Kvitova, from the Czech Republic, was the only non-British player to get a singles wild card to the main draw on Wednesday.

Raducanu stalker denied tickets for Wimbledon

The man accused of stalking tennis player Emma Raducanu tried to buy tickets for Wimbledon but was blocked by the All England Club's security system, British media reported on Tuesday. The BBC and others reported that the man tried to apply for tickets through the public ballot for the third Slam of the year which begins on June 30. His name had been red-flagged. At the Dubai championships in February, the man exhibited "fixated behavior" towards the 22-year-old Raducanu, who became distressed during a match when she noticed him watching from the stands.

Liverpool begins title defence against Bournemouth

Liverpool will begin its Premier League title defence at home against Bournemouth on August 15 while Manchester United will host Arsenal in the opening round of the 2025-26 season. Arne Slot's side will travel to Newcastle for the second round followed by a home match against Arsenal a week later. Everton, which bade farewell to its long-time home at Goodison Park at the end of last season, will play its first game in the state-of-the-art, 53,000-capacity stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock against Brighton on Aug. 23. Thomas Frank 's first Premier League game in charge of Tottenham will be at home against promoted side Burnley on Aug 16.

Suryakumar flies to England for sports hernia treatment

India's T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav has flown to England to consult a specialist for treating a sports hernia related injury, and, if necessary, he could undergo surgery. Surya had a terrific IPL for Mumbai Indians scoring over 700 runs, and also played the Mumbai Premier League T20 soon after. It is not known if the pain aggravated during the Mumbai T20 league as Surya had a gruelling three months of travelling and playing at a stretch.

Barcelona set to sign Espanyol goalkeeper Garcia

Barcelona will sign Espanyol goalkeeper Joan Garcia, who was once linked with a move to Arsenal, on a six-year contract, the Spanish champion said on Wednesday. The 24-year-old García recently finished a stellar first season in La Liga when he led all goalies in saves with an average of almost four a game. He will now join Espanyol's main rival. Barcelona said it activated a release clause of €25 million and that García is expected to sign the contract on Friday in a "private ceremony" at the club offices.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Club World Cup, DAZN, 6.30 a.m. & 9.30 p.m. (Thursday); 12.30 & 3.30 a.m. (Friday)

Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.45 a.m.

TNPL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.

Bangladesh piles on the misery for Sri Lanka

Mushfiqur and Shanto hit daddy hundreds; Litton fills his boots with a breezy 90; with rain interrupting play shortly after lunch, only 61 overs possible on the second day

BANGLADESH IN SL

Agence France-Presse
GALLE

Cashing in: Litton's thrill-a-minute 90 ensured Sri Lanka remained on the back foot. AFP

Bangladesh continued its dominance over Sri Lanka on the second day of the first Test on Wednesday, finishing at a commanding 484 for nine – despite a few late breakthroughs by the hosts.

The Tigers resumed on 292 for three overnight and turned the screws on a batting-friendly wicket, with Mushfiqur Rahim and Najmul Hossain Shanto extending their record-breaking partnership.

The 264-run partnership finally ended when Shanto fell for 148, deceived in the air as he attempted to drive one.

Shanto's fluent innings was peppered with 15 boundaries and a six-.Mushfiqur kept going with wicketkeeper Litton Das before finally falling for 163, a marathon knock that spanned nearly nine hours and 350 balls.

Litton piled on further misery for Sri Lanka with a brisk 90 off 123 deliveries, cashing in on tired bowlers and some loose fielding.

He was particularly severe on the spinners, using his feet to good effect to lift the ball cleanly over the infield.

Anxious moments

He survived some anxious moments.

Pathum Nissanka grassed a sitter at short mid-wicket when he had just 14 to his name.

Moments earlier, he had survived a run-out stemming from a mix-up.

He eventually perished attempting a reverse sweep off debutant Tharindu Ratnayake, gloving it to Kusal Mendis behind the stumps.

With rain interrupting play shortly after lunch, only 61 overs could be bowled on day two.

A persistent drizzle forced an early tea and fading light ended proceedings prematurely.

Play will resume fifteen minutes early on Thursday to compensate for the lost time.

The scores: Bangladesh 484/9 in 151 overs (Mushfiqur 163, Shanto 148, Litton 90; Asitha 3/80, Milan 3/38, Tharindu 3/196) vs Sri Lanka.

Talisman: Boycott termed Kohli as India's best batter in all three formats. FILE PHOTO: AFP

India will miss Kohli more than Rohit in England: Boycott

Press Trust of India
LEEDS

India will miss Virat Kohli more than Rohit Sharma in the Test series against England and the duo's recent retirement from the format will "hurt" the the visitor's chances in the rubber starting on Friday, reckons the legendary Geoffrey Boycott.

The two teams will engage in five matches over the next six weeks, beginning their campaigns in the new World Test Championship (WTC) cycle.

"The retirement of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma hurts the chances of India beating England. Kohli is the biggest loss as he has been their best batter and talisman in all three formats," Boycott wrote in his column for *The Daily Telegraph*.

The former England captain called Kohli's absence a bigger blow.

"It does not matter how much talent or experience you have, if you are not mentally fresh and up for the challenge then it becomes draining.

"Rohit was a superb batter. At his best, a beautiful stroke player, but he won't be missed as much as Kohli because his Test record was good rather than exceptional."

Boycott urged the Ben Stokes-led side to temper their Bazball style of batting and apply some common sense, as winning is more important than entertaining.

Panthers withdraw ball-tampering complaint against Dragons in TNPL

Sports Bureau
SALEM

The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) on Wednesday confirmed that Siechem Madurai Panthers has formally withdrawn its complaint alleging ball-tampering by players of Dindigul Dragons during a TNPL fixture last week.

In an official statement, the TNCA stated that the matter was reviewed in accordance with the Operational Rules of the TNPL, and the Madurai franchise was asked to submit specific evidence that would enable the constitution of a commission to examine the matter and determine any further course of action. However, following internal discussions, the management and coaching staff of Panthers decided to withdraw the complaint. The franchise stated that the decision was made in the larger interest of the sport and to ensure smooth conduct of the tournament.

Panthers also clarified that the complaint was never intended to cast aspersions on Dragons captain R. Ashwin nor his team, match officials, the TNPL, or the TNCA.

The TNCA has declared the matter closed and confirmed that no further action will be taken.

Sumit Nagal loses in the second round

Sports Bureau

Top seed Cristian Garin of Chile beat Sumit Nagal 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in the second round of €145,250 Challenger tennis in Poznan, Poland, on Wednesday.

Other results: €54,000 Challenger, Royan: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Adil Kalyanpur & Parikshit Somani bt Simone Agostini (Ita) Mario Mansilla Diez (Esp) 0-6, 6-3, [10-5].

$30,000 ITF men, Luzhou: First round: Yuki Mochizuki (Jpn) bt S. Mukund 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

$30,000 ITF men, Monastir: First round: Pavlos Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Karan Singh 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Olaf Pieczkowski (Pol) & Karan Singh bt Fabrizio Andaloro & Leonardo Rossi (Ita) 6-3, 6-3.

$15,000 ITF, Monastir: Men: First round: Dev Javia bt Liam Delicata (Mlt) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Delicata & Breno Urvaneja (Bra) 6-1, 7-6(2). **Women: First round:** Zeel Desai bt Joody Elkady (Egy) 6-3, 7-5.

$30,000 ITF women, Tauste, Spain: Pre-quarters: Ankita Raina bt Maria Vaquero (Esp) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3; **First round:** Vaishnavi Adkar bt Arina Arifullina 6-2, 6-3.

$30,000 ITF women, Chinese Taipei: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Vaidehi Chaudhari & Natsumi Kawaguchi (Jpn) bt Yuka Hosoki & Junri Namigata (Jpn) 6-4, 2-6, [16-14].

$30,000 ITF women, Wichita: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Martina Okalova (Svk) & Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Taylor Gruber & Hibah Shaikh (USA) 6-1, 6-1.

Billie Jean King Cup play-off draw today

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The draw for the Billie Jean King Cup World Group play-off women's tennis event is scheduled to be held in London on Thursday.

Unlike the last time when India played Latvia in the play-off in April 2021 that saw Jelena Ostapenko lead her team to a 3-1 victory, it will be a three-nation competition this time, spread over seven groups.

The seven seeds

Seven nations – Canada, Poland, Slovakia, Czechia, Australia, Germany and the Netherlands – have been seeded.

The next bunch has Romania, Switzerland, Belgium, Slovenia, Mexico, Brazil and Colombia.

India and New Zealand, which qualified from the Asia-Oceania zone, will be along with Argentina, Turkey, Denmark, Croatia and Portugal.

Each of the seven pools of three teams will have one country drawn from each of the three groups.

The host will also be decided by the ITF. The three teams in each group will compete on a league basis.

The topper of each of the seven groups will make it to the World Group qualifier.

The rest will return to group-1 in their zones.

Indian junior men's hockey team departs for Berlin four-nation tournament

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The India's junior men's hockey team left for Berlin on Wednesday to compete in a four-Nation tournament from June 21 to 25, continuing its preparations for the World Cup to be held later this year.

Led by Araijeet Singh Hundal with Amir Ali as his deputy, the Indian colts will begin their campaign against Germany on June 21. The team will then face Australia on June 22, followed by Spain on June 24 during round-robin stage.

The tournament will conclude with classification matches on June 25, where the top two teams from the pool will compete for the championship, while the remaining two will contest the third place.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Britto's treble does it for Wanderers

Britto's hat-trick took Bangalore Wanderers FC past Jsports FC 3-2 in the BDFA 'C' division football league here on Wednesday.

Other results: BDFA 'C' division: Rovers FC drew with Jolly Bros FC 3-3.

KSFA 'C' division: Hawks United FC bt FC Mangalore 2-1; Agniputra FA bt Stadium Football Club: 2-1; Kickstart FC bt La Esparanza FC 3-0; Bangalore North FC bt Undisputed FC 2-1.

Belliappa 'tricks as Naveen HC wins big

Belliappa's hat-trick powered Naveen HC's 10-1 win over Southern Alpha Sports Academy in the Travancore Cup hockey tournament here on Wednesday.

The results:

Naveen Hockey Club 10 (Bharath Kumar 3, 24, Belliappa 12, 13, 14, Vivek 8, 10, Akash 17, Ashik 18, 45) bt Southern Alpha Sports Academy 1 (Somanna 22).

Delhi Public School HC 5 (Shahanul Shafas 3, Rahul Balan 4, Muhammed Siyas 13, Ratheesh 41, 46) bt Samanth Sports Academy 0.

Nabhas hits unbeaten ton

V. Nabhas (100 n.o.) helped Swastic Union (2) defeat Yankees CC in the KSCA inter-club under-19 tournament here.

The scores:

Swastic Union (2) 292/5 in 45 overs (R. Shiv 36, Rehan Mohammed 76, V. Nabhas 100 n.o., J. Sukruth 31, Arav Prasad 3/40) bt Yankees CC 96 in 31.3 overs (Gagan Sai 3/21, P. Dhakshath 3/16) (overs reduced due to rain).

Friends CC 199 in 44.1 overs (Aditya Gundalli 66, Kashish Bahuguna 40 n.o., Sachith Shenoy Konchady 4/35, Dipten Bhattacharya 4/46) lost to Hammonds CC 201/7 in 36.4 overs (Uday Krishna 31, Santhosh Rao 43, M.D. Ayush 46, Bharat Jain 4/34).

Vijaya CC 287/6 in 50 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 65, Harshil Arigala 83, Pranav Kedlaya 63 n.o.) bt Malleswaram United CC 90/8 in 27 overs (L. Rakshith 38, Chetan Rangraj 4/13) (by 120 runs via VJD method).

Young Pioneer CC 165 in 40.1 overs (Abhinav Santhosh 47, U. Balaji 46, M. Janav 3/25, K. Deeraj 3/25) lost to Visweswarapuram CC (2) 146/6 in 27.4 overs (Krishna Pahuja 70 n.o., Rajit Kanjilal 4/34) (by 4 wickets by VJD method).

Vijaya CC 112 in 36.4 overs (Udgeet Nandan 43, Raghav Karthik 4/21, Devansh Joshi 4/23) lost to Visweswarapuram CC (1) 113/4 in 18 overs (Sharvesh Kulothungan 46).

Akaash, Geetha in lead

Akaash Ashok Kumar took the lead in Round 1 of the Karnataka State-ranking tenpin bowling tournament at Amoeba Bowling Center here on Wednesday. Akaash (total pinfall 1198 pins) lies ahead of Parvez Ahmed (1090). In the women's division, P. Geetha leads with a total pinfall of 950 in six games, followed by J. Preemal.

Mendez extends stay at BFC

Spanish striker Edgar Mendez signed a one-year extension with Bengaluru FC (BFC), the club has announced. Striker Monirul Molla and goalkeeper Sahil Poonia signed three year deals with BFC. Argentina forward Jorge Pereyra Diaz has rejoined Mumbai City after spending one season with BFC.

India to play Pakistan at Edgbaston in its opening match

T20 WWC 2026

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

India will take on Pakistan in its opening match of ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 at Edgbaston on June 14. The ICC and hosts ECB on Wednesday announced the full schedule of the tournament, featuring 12 teams. The 24-day long tournament will be held from June 12 to July 5 next year and will consist of a total of 33 matches to be played across seven venues in England.

India and Pakistan will kickstart their campaigns at Edgbaston, whereas the opening match of the tournament will be between hosts England and Sri Lanka at Edgbaston on June 12.

Hampshire Bowl, Headingley, Old Trafford, The Oval, Bristol County Ground and Lord's are the other venues. The two semifinals will be played at The Oval on June 30 and July 2, and the final will be at Lord's on July 5.

The 12-team competition will have two groups of six teams each. Group 1 consists of Australia, last edition's runner-up South Africa, India, Pakistan and two qualifying teams.

The Group 2 consists of defending champion New Zealand, West Indies, Sri Lanka, hosts England and two qualifying teams. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals. After its opening clash against Pakistan, India will move to Headingley for its contest against a qualifying team on June 17, followed by contest against South Africa at the Old Trafford on June 21. While India will face the second qualifying team of Group 1 on June 25 at Old Trafford, its toughest game will be against Australia on June 28. at the 'Home of Cricket'.